



Bethany, Illinois 61914

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY



The United States of America is celebrating it's Bicentennial in 1976. Bethany and Marrowbone Township has contributed much to the history of central Illinois in the past 100 years.

The Chamber of Commerce of Bethany decided to place Bethany's fine history in print to celebrate the Bicentennial. The Chamber is a diverse organization in membership. The business community as well as farmers, factory workers, housewives, and concerned residents are among the membership.

The Chamber members displayed a unified effort in making this book possible. The membership would like to thank all of the people who donated information and pictures. Special thanks go to Glenn Austin and Ruth Suddarth, who amassed the information needed for this book.

Gary Himstedt
Chamber of Commerce
President 1975

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Ill. Hist. Survey

A HISTORY OF BETHANY
written by Jim Scott

Published by
Bethany Chamber of Commerce

This book is dedicated to the forward-looking citizens of Marrowbone Township, both past and present, who have made Bethany a good place to live—and to rear children.

And my special thanks to all the persons who helped me in the preparation of this book.

—Jim Scott

Chapter 1

The History of BETHANY

By Jim Scott

"We cannot escape history, we will be remembered in spite of ourselves."

—Abraham Lincoln

The Village's Genesis

Bethany in 1977 observed its Centennial, a hundred years of tranquility, marred only by four wars, which cost the lives of many of its young sons.

And that was the way the founders of the village envisioned it: an agricultural community of quiet and happy contentment.

And, as the nation turned into the 1970's, when crime, wanton destruction and dissension rocked the cities of the land, Bethany remained true to its heritage, a haven for law-abiding citizens.

"The people I want to hear about are the people who took risks."

—Robert Frost

And, at the inception of Bethany, everyone was taking a risk. The land lay rich and inviting for crops, but equipment in those days required much muscle and endurance.

Throughout the 19th Century, the pioneers and their families continued to trek to Central Illinois from the crowded East and Southern states. In 1818, the Rev. D. W. McLin settled in Illinois. He organized the first regular congregation of the Cumberland Church in the state. At a camp meeting in 1819, Joel F. Knight was converted, and he later preached for the Bethany congregation.

There were many hardships in the formative days of the town. A great blizzard swept through the Eastern half of the United States in 1888. A far worse storm ravaged Moultrie County in 1830-31. The early settlers suffered untold hardships for they were totally unprepared for it. The

snow started falling the first of December and continued most of the winter. For weeks, the settlers were buried in their cabins. And their cattle perished of cold and starvation.

And a depression hit the Midwest in the early 1890s. In 1894, Jacob S. Coxy led 20,000 unemployed Midwestern men into Washington April 29, seeking jobs for all.

But inventions were opening up opportunities in the new nation. In 1894, Thomas A. Edison gave his kinetoscope to the public in a showing in New York City.

Automobiles began to appear across the land as the 20th Century dawned, and a motor car first crossed the nation, from San Francisco to New York, between May 23 and Aug. 1, 1903.

By 1915 you could talk coast-to-coast, thanks to the invention of Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas A. Watson.

The sweet smell of the countryside, and hum of the bees and the birdsongs cheered the first arrivals in Bethany in the 1820s. Many of the newcomers had only recently arrived from Europe, and they had complete faith in the inscription on the Statue of Liberty, viz:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . . the wretched refuse of your teeming shore . . . send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. . . . I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

John Deere, a former Vermont blacksmith, in 1837 invented the steel plow that knifed through the sticky Illinois soil. He set up a plant at Moline to manufacture it and called it "The Prairie Queen."

Together with Cyrus Hall McCormick's reaper, manufactured in Chicago, it revolutionized agriculture. But it would be years before the Marrowbone farmers could afford one or both.

British soldiers took over Illinois in 1765. But, in 1778, George Rogers Glark and his 175 riflemen, came down the Ohio River to recapture the territory for the United States.

In 1829, the Black Hawks attempted to rally all the Western Indians into a confederation to stop the advance of the Whites. The result was the Black Hawk War in 1832 that drove the Indians from Illinois.

In 1818, Illinois joined the Union as the 21st state with Kaskaskia as its capital. Moultrie County was created Feb. 16, 1843, Marrowbone Township, Jan. 22, 1867.

Jacob McCune, a New Yorker, who was one of the heroes of the War of 1812, moved to Moultrie County in 1828 with his two eldest sons and their families. They soon encountered a friend, John Wilborn, who had a cabin near Bethany.

In 1829, McCune and Jones Daniels were hunting along a creek in Marrowbone Township, as it later became known. At dusk, they lighted their campfire and feasted on venison roasted over the fire. After eating the meat, they broke the bones and consumed the marrow.

The next morning, as they prepared to leave, Daniels asked: "What shall we call this camp?"

McCune, looking around at the scattered bones, replied: "Let's call it Marrowbone!"

And that was Bethany's first name.

McCune died Aug. 16, 1866 and was buried in the Camfield Cemetery, east of Kirksville.

When the first settlers arrived, there were still Kickapoo Indians around. They were friendly to the whites. But, as more settlers arrived, the Kickapoos, disliking crowds, pushed farther west.

After Marrowbone became the name of the township, G. W. and T. P. Logan got up a petition to change the village's name to Bethany, which they had read about in their Bible and the name was adopted.

Wild sounds were heard by the pioneers in those early days. Animals galloped over the prairie; the cry of hounds and of the wolf were heard as they pursued the deer; the gobble of the wild turkey in the spring; the crack of the rifle bringing down a deer or a turkey or killing rattlesnakes; the crack of the whip as two oxen hauled a big load of hickory wood; the thud of the flax-brake and the hum of the spinning wheel.

Abram L. Keller, arriving in 1832, killed 132 rattlesnakes in breaking 10 acres of land.

F. M. Perryman's dogs chased a bear off his holding in 1830. Finally the men chasing after the bear were able to shoot him.

Andrew Bone and Elias Kennedy were the first families to arrive in Marrowbone, driving their wagons in from Tennessee in 1828. Kennedy's daughter, Elizabeth W., was born in February, 1829, the first birth in the township.

William C. Ward and his son, James, brought their families to Marrowbone in June of 1830. William Thomason and Allen Perryman soon followed.

The fall of 1830 saw the arrival of Jesse A. Walker from Kentucky. John Warren and Daniel Pound, both from Tennessee.

Bone was the first to go seriously into farming. He also constructed the first horse mill in Marrowbone in 1832. Bone died in 1835 and was the first to be buried in the cemetery east of Bethany.

Before year's end, Thomas D. Lansden, George Baxter and James Fruit and their families arrived from Kentucky. Fruit was a man of culture and he practiced medicine.

Robert Law built the first house in Bethany in 1834. In 1836, he also put up a horse mill and sold it immediately to A. N. Ashmore.

Lansden, who had been with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans in 1812, built the first blacksmith shop in the township. Lansden also built a water mill for William Foster in 1837.

George Thomason opened the first store in Marrowbone in 1840. The first steam saw and grist mill were built by John A. Strain in 1850, the machinery coming from Alton by wagon.

In those days, there were no bridges over streams. So enterprising young men began operating ferries.

In June, 1850, Thomas Young paid \$2 for the rights to operate a ferry on the East Fork of the Okaw River. He was allowed to charge 5 cents to carry a single person, 10 cents for a horse and rider; 25 cents for a wagon and a pair of horses.

Near the ferries, taverns sprang up, where the weary traveler could get refreshments.

In 1857, a group of Irish Catholics migrated to Marrowbone. In 1863, Father Vaught met with a number of Celts in the home of Edmund Brasman, three miles north of Bethany, and organized a Catholic congregation. The next year, they built a church near the site of the first meeting.

Abram Souther put up a sawmill on the banks of the Okaw, run by water power, and he cut considerable lumber for the community.

In those days, land was cheap. It could be bought from the U.S. at \$1.25 an acre. So farmers bought up all they could afford. Few farms were rented. At the death of the owner, the land was divided among his sons.

The first supervisors representing Marrowbone Township were John A. Freeland, 1867; William McGuire, 1868-1873; A. R. Scott, 1873-1875; T. Crowder, 1875-1877, and A. R. Scott, re-elected in 1877 served until 1880, followed by W. P. McGuire.

McGuire had two interesting meetings with Abraham Lincoln. The first occurred when he was only 16, and was involved in helping slaves of a local man run away. Brought to trial, he was defended successfully by Lincoln in what was the first decision by an Illinois court on slavery. McGuire later was a county delegate to the Republican State Convention held at the Wigwam in Decatur when he and others first suggested Lincoln as a candidate for President.

Many big families had arrived in Bethany. In January, 1838, at the age of 31, Robert Crowder, a farmer, brought his family from Missouri, including his wife, Barbara, and eight sons and two daughters. Robert, Jr. was killed in the battle of Chickamanga in June, 1863, and another son, Andrew, was slain in the siege of Vicksburg in the same month.

David Strain and his son, John, arrived from North Carolina in October, 1831. David soon became a justice of the peace. In 1832, came James Roney and sons, Joshua and Robert, from Kentucky, as well as George Mitchell. U. N. Kutch, a legendary hunter, killed 18 deer in his first three weeks in Bethany. He also had a taste for honey and often found as many as four bee trees a day.

In 1855, John Bushert, 33, and his wife, Catherine, came to Bethany from Ohio. Successful in farming and stock raising, he purchased a small farm in 1887 and erected a large home in which he retired in 1889. They had seven children.

John J. Freeland and his wife, Mary, arrived from North Carolina in 1856, the parents of five sons and six daughters.

In 1882 the four sons of Jacob and Mary Wilkinson established the firm known as Wilkinson Brothers, dealers in lumber, tile and coal.

In 1869, Joseph H. McGuire, 33, of Tennessee and his wife, Mary, a native of Germany, came to Bethany to engage in the grocery business. He had served in the Union Army through the entire Civil War. In Bethany, he served as justice of peace for 16 years and later was in the furniture business until he was appointed postmaster.

Many families arrived between 1880 and 1885, some of them with 10 children.

Dr. J. D. Livesey, coming in 1854, became Bethany's first physician. He built a frame dwelling and storehouse, and, in partnership with Tomas Sowell, opened a general stock of goods for sale. This was the first frame building and it later was used as a wagon shop by Lantz and Mitchel.

The next frame house, put up by William P. McGuire, in April, 1857, was later owned by H. A. Smith. McGuire built another store in 1864 of brick, two stories, and later sold it to Thomas Noble.

Business in Bethany began to hum in 1880. Here were the stores at that time.

General store—A. R. Scott, A. H. Antrim.

Groceries—E. Hampton.

Restaurant—R. Hampton.

Harness—Edward Stables & Sons.

Furniture—J. G. Smutz.

Undertaker—C. C. Creech.

Wagon shop—Lentz & Mitchel.

Lumber and coal—G. W. Logan.

Blacksmith—McCord, Strain and Materson.

Shoe Shop—R. B. Utterback.

Barber Shop—E. Norton.

Butcher—R. Hampton.

Grain dealer—T. P. Logan.

Physicians—E. A. Pyatt, F. F. McMennamy.

Stock dealers—Scott and Little; J. McGuire.

Livery stable—Robert Lanum.

Carpenter Shop—Smith & Lansden.

Brick yard—William Mitchell.

Soon another busy business was started in Bethany by Jacob Keim, who sold cemetery monuments for some 30 years.

Bethany has always been a most patriotic town. In the Bethany Cemetery, there is a monument that says: "This township furnished more soldiers for the Union Army in 1861 than it had voters. Of the 200 who enlisted, 58 were killed or died of sickness.



Soldiers Monument in Bethany Cemetery

The Robert Crowder family was especially hard hit by the Civil War, losing two of their sons.

And brother fought against brother in the Freeland family. Thomas J. and Capt. John Andrew Freeland's brother, William J., was a captain in the confederate Army who died in the war.

The horrible Andersonville Prison experiences of Dr. David L. Davidson of Todd's Point may have influenced him to study medicine.

At least, the end of the war brought two well-known doctors to Bethany, Dr. George Washington Hudson and Dr. Pyatt, both from the South, Hudson from Tennessee and

Pyatt from North Carolina. However, Dr. Hudson was a Union doctor, serving with Sherman's troops on their march to the sea.

In World War I, some 75 joined the armed forces from Bethany and five perished.

While in Bethany in the summer of 1975, I tried to get the complete list of those killed in all wars, but none was available. In World War II, many died in foreign lands or on ships at sea and no record has been kept.

Bethany was well-organized even in its infancy. In 1877, when there were 321 living in town, the village board was composed of J. F. Knight, president; Andrew Bankson, David F. Kennedy, S. H. Sanner and B. F. McMennamy, trustees; G. T. Neill, clerk.

By April 28, 1888, the board was enlarged. Joseph H. McGuire was president; H. A. Smith, W. P. McGuire, Teague Ray, R. B. Wheeler, C. C. Creech, G. W. Logan were trustees; George T. Hill, was treasurer, and Bethany had added John W. Fortner, as constable, and Abner Kendall as street commissioner.

A relaxed atmosphere seems to grip Bethany in the hot summertime, especially was it so in the early days. Even the engineer on the freight trains passing through Bethany then would pull to a stop after sighting wild berries along the right-of-way, and he and his brakeman would get out and pick a sackful.

Horses seemed to have more fear of rattlesnakes than did the settlers.

Kutch was riding his horse through the prairie one day when he came upon several rattlesnakes. His horse rose on his hind legs in terror, as Kutch shot the snakes.

Next morning he was taking his young son on a ride on the same horse. While he was adjusting him in a rear seat, he let one of his long reins drop across the horses side. The horse apparently mistook it for a rattlesnake and reared up, spilling both Kutch and his son.

Chapter 2

How People Lived and Dressed in Pioneer Days

As Moultrie County became more prosperous, bridges gradually replaced the ferries, as it doubled its population in the decade of the railroad boom, 1850-1860.

The majority of the early Marrowbone citizens were of southern stock, and they brought with them the habits of hard work, rough play, simple living, easy hospitality. Although most of them were poor, their poverty did not carry the sense of degradation known to the poor today. In those early days, it was hard to tell the poor from the rich.

The new settler brought with him the sharp axe and the rifle, indispensable to life in a new country, and, often, little else save seed for the first year's crop and a few household articles. His first labor was to erect a cabin, crudely made of logs. It was usually 14 by 14 feet square, and was often built without glass, nails, hinges or locks. Light for the cabin would be provided by leaving out a log along one side, and stretching over the opening sheets of strong paper, well greased with coon grease or bear oil. This type of cabin, of course, prevailed only in earliest times, before the saw mill came into being.

Horses were not much used at first except for riding. The common draft animal was the ox. In many instances, the carts and wagons, as well as the hoes and wooden plows, were made by the settler, who was his own carpenter, wheelwright and blacksmith.

The furniture was as primitive as the house itself. The tables and benches were made from puncheons with stakes driven in at the four corners for legs.

The bedsteads were made by lashing side poles to forked sticks driven into the earthen floor of the cabin and laying cross poles over them, on which were spread the feather beds, the home-spun sheets and coverlets and the quilts pieced together from scraps of women's dresses.

The table utensils consisted of a pack knife or butcher knife and some wooden spoons and vessels. The women made nearly all the clothing worn by the family from cloth spun and woven from homegrown cotton, flax and wool.

Every house had its spinning wheel and loom.

In those primitive days, the settlers came over trails used by the Indians in going to and from their hunting grounds, and they in turn followed a path worn by the hooves of buffalo and deer. These trails followed the contours of the land, crossing the stream where the fording would be easiest.

John Whitley, who arrived in Moultrie County late in 1826 with his wife and six sons, three daughters and a son-in-law, were all great sportsmen and kept a number of thoroughbred Kentucky race horses. Gambling in general seemed to be the chief diversion of this period.

The Waggoners, a family of German origin, established themselves in Whitley Creek. One of the sons, John, taught school, and, after moving to Sullivan, took over as publisher of the county's first newspaper.

Once several settlements were established, the problem of communications arose. By the time Moultrie County was created, a rudimentary road system had already been established in Shelby and Macon Counties.

The Commissioners' court of Moultrie, at its first meeting, in April, 1843, divided the county into 13 road districts and appointed a supervisor for each. At the same time, it was ordered that every able-bodied man would have to work on the roads in his neighborhood for four days.

In the 1830s, the settlers felt that the prairies were an uncultivable desert. The horrendous fires that swept over them in the fall when the grass was tinder-dry also was a strong deterrent. And there also was a lack of timber for buildings and fences. But the main problem was the difficulty of breaking the tough prairie sod with the clumsy wooden plows. But this was gradually overcome as the farmers became affluent enough to buy the right machinery.

Transportation received a big help in 1851 when the Illinois Central, chartered by the state's General Assembly, was given 2,595,000 acres of land. The grant was in the form of six miles on both sides of the rail right of way.

The branch of the Illinois Central that ran through

Bethany was first known as the Peoria, Decatur and Evansville, a consolidation of earlier companies, and was completed from Decatur to Mattoon in 1871.

The taxes paid by the railroad became an important part of the county's income. In 1880, the assessed valuation of the railroad property in Moultrie was \$275,600. The railroads reached their peak in 1930, and after that they declined in importance.

Mothers and daughters of early settlers, after the sheep were sheered, marked, carded and spun the wool into yarn and then weaved it into material for bedclothes, dresses and other garments, according to Mrs. Raymond Scheer.

"Largely, women wore dark woolen clothes in winter," she said. "Some high school girls wore pastel colored cashmere blouses, called shirt-waists, for graduation, and they shocked a lot of people. They never had seen light colored clothes before.

"I remember one year a poor girl and a rich girl were in the same graduating class. The poor girl's mother could not afford light-colored fancy dresses that was then in style. So the poor girl said she would not graduate.

"So the rich girl, feeling sorry for the poor girl, said she wouldn't graduate, either, so that year they had no formal graduating exercises.

"In the early 1900s, we had women who worked for the public as dress-makers, such as Mrs. Mollie Hudson, Mrs. Mame Morrison, who married Mr. Lunsden, and Mrs. Roe (Mollie) Hogg. And a few continued with it much later until it became largely a task of alteration.

"We also had weavers of rag carpets, such as Mrs. Jim (Janie) Butts and Mrs. Mahan. They would tear up rags and sew them together then wind them into balls. Thus they had a reserve when someone wanted a carpet.

"Most of the colors were blue and white, but often other colors were added when available.

"The carpet was woven a yard wide and to the length of the room. The lengths were then sewed together. To wash the carpet, they would rip the strips apart and wash them. When they were dry, they would be sewed back together. Some put straw under their carpets for added warmth. Later, old newspapers were used.

"They also had a carpet strecher. The carpets would be

tacked to the floor."

Mrs. Scheer leaned back into her rocking chair, and lifted her eyes as if the wondrous past was flashing before her and continued:

"Milliners later became most popular. I remember Mrs. J. A. (Anne Bone) Walton was one of the good milliners before 1890.

"They particularly enjoyed trimming hats. They would go to Chicago to a millinery school for two weeks in the spring and fall to learn what the new styles were.

"Logan's Department store had a large millinery department and always had a trained milliner from out of town to make or trim hats.

"Every woman had a summer and winter hat. A milliner could make an old hat look like a new one by adding flowers, ribbons, (velvet in winter) plumes and feathers and, sometimes, a buckle.

"I'm not sure when the milliners went out of business but I had a hat in 1912 made of straw (blue and white) over a wire frame."

Mrs. Scheer remembers many things that shocked the young town. For example, John Oliver Logan, 14, died of a heart attack after he was thought to have scarlet fever.

Babies started out in long dresses. Boys wore a "waist," a coat-style shirt but with broad starched collar. Near the bottom of the waist was a circle of buttons, to which the pants were attached. Stockings were always black and extended above the knees, where they were anchored by a garter.

Children and milady always wore high buttoned shoes, and a buttonhook was always kept handy. Men worked in high leather boots, to protect themselves from snakes and sprained ankles. For work around the barn, they wore high rubber boots. In winter, they were felt lined for warmth.

Men also wore overalls and coarse blue shirts for outdoor work. For indoor work, ties were always ready-tied four-in-hands. In winter, men and boys wore woolen caps with flaps to pull down over the ears. In summer, they favored broad brimmed straw hats. The well-dressed man sported Derby hats on Sundays.

Cellars of nearly every home were always crammed full of Mason jars of peaches, raspberries, plums, gooseberries

and tomatoes. In spring, housewives brought in lettuce, radishes, onions, peas, string beans, carrots, beets, cabbage, cucumbers, squash and potatoes from the gardens.

The farmer took his wheat to the mill in Bethany to be ground into flour. Pancakes were a special breakfast treat, prepared three at a time on a big griddle. And there always was a nearby farmer who raised a little sorghum for syrup. Chicken not only provided eggs for breakfast but also a delicious Sunday noon meal.

Hogs were often butchered by the farmers. A big kettle full of water was placed over a fire outdoors. When the water boiled, the hog was hoisted by block and tackle, after being killed, and lowered into the kettle to be scalded so that its hair could be scraped off. Then the carcass was dismembered. The hams, shoulders and bacon went to the smokehouse to be cured, spareribs were made ready for dinner. The lard was rendered in the kitchen and the rest of the good meat made into sausage. This was packed into gallon crocks, used for milk.

Crowder's in Bethany handled most of the calves. The butcher made the rounds of the town with his fresh meat twice a week.

Ice cream was always a Sunday treat, as well as for special parties. Mother mixed the cream, sugar and eggs and then father pushed the ice and rock salt into the freezer and, when it was filled, turned the crank until the ice cream was frozen.

At school, all students first mastered the three Rs—reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. (Or else felt the teacher's hickory stick.)

A good mixer for the sexes was the box lunches, held by schools and churches. The young ladies prepared a box lunch for two, and then shared it with the man who bought it. But dancing was taboo. Taffy pulls also mixed the sexes in private homes.

Lightning was always a peril, threatening both house and barn by fire. Lightning rods were on every farm for protection.

After 1880, when the milling industry had been drawn away from Illinois to Minneapolis, which drew on the northwest for its wheat supply, wheat production in Moultrie County took a tailspin. In 1890, only 66,875 bushels were grown and by 1900 only 16,790. Oats had

supplanted it as a secondary crop. But nothing has ever threatened corn, though soybeans has been popular in recent years.

The crops of corn were never husked on the stalk, but rather were hauled home in the husk and thrown in a heap, generally by the side of the crib, so that the ears, when husked, could be thrown directly into the crib. The whole neighborhood, male and female, was invited to the shucking. Contests were often held between women and men to see who could husk the faster.

Barley and rye and the various hay crops, such as timothy, clover and alfalfa, were grown as supplementary crops.

The raising of livestock used to be a more important business. In 1835, William Snyder imported a thoroughbred Durham bull, and from this beginning, many herds of fine, blooded cattle were developed. In 1850, the livestock of the county was valued at \$113,153 and in 1870, it had increased to \$1,105,444. By 1900, it climbed to \$1,275,824. Poultry raising, too, was important in the early days, as well as bee culture.

The heavy production of corn and the increased demand for meat animals made hog raising an important industry. The old, half-wild variety of hog that rooted through the woods in search of food soon became a creature of the past; in its place were well kept hogs of standard breeds, fed so as to produce the finest meat.

On the early livestock farms, much attention was given to the breeding of fine horses. Draft horses, as well as carriage and riding horses, were raised in large numbers. When the use of horses for hauling waned with the employment of motor transportation on the farms, the livestock industry also swooned.

As late as 1924, Moultrie farmers were using 11,320 horses and mules. In 1935, the number had shrunk to 5,880.

Moultrie County farmers early learned the efficacy of an organization to promote their interests and to exchange methods of improved production and marketing. In 1858, a group of farmers formed an association that sponsored the holding of a county fair. The organization was made permanent under the name of the Moultrie County Agricultural Society, and was the forerunner of the present Farm Bureau.

The National Grange was formed in 1867, and farmers saw in it a cooperative means of fighting the high cost of supplies. It was the Grange's membership of about half a million that Montgomery Ward had in mind when it issued its first catalogue in 1876. The distribution was stimulated by the coming of rural free delivery in 1896 and, in 1913, parcel post service was established.

At the start of the 20th Century, the mail-order business had become firmly established with Bethany farmers. Called "The Wish Book," it was kept handy in the farmers' kitchen and, when a new edition arrived, the old one was given to the children who cut it up to make paper dolls.

School teachers also found the catalogue invaluable in teaching arithmetic and spelling.

When the Civil War was over, the nation was once more united, and women came on like proud peacocks. They wore hoop skirts and bustles and mitts that reached to their elbows. And often they wore high back combs in their hair.

Because of labor-saving machinery in the 20th Century, the farmer was becoming more productive. The first census taken in the United States in 1790 showed that nine of every 10 men were farmers. Since then the figures have changed drastically.

Womankind, too, was stepping up her production with Webb's "Family Favorite," a sewing machine run by a foot treadle, which could be bought for \$27.

By 1880, the telephone had gone into use and the light of Thomas Edison's incandescent electric lamp had begun to make the gas and kerosene lamps obsolete.

The farm home lost its quietness after 1886, when the first practical phonographs (Edison and Victoria) appeared. And an electric flatiron appeared in 1882 to free milady from the heating of irons on the cook stove.

The 1880-90 era was known as Victorian America, when woman began carrying Japanese parasols and said legs instead of limbs. They also were downing lots of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, first marketed in 1875.

Children wore silk hats held by a bow around the neck. Mumblety-peg became a popular game of boys, played with knives.

Suspenders bowed in the Gay Nineties, and women wore mutton-leg sleeves on their upper arms, which gave them the appearance of Popeye. Men in office wore sleeve-protectors.

The typewriter, invented in 1870, came into use then, and women seemed to enjoy it more than the bicycle. But tennis and golf had begun to take her eye.

The Marrowbone farmers suffered severely before Century's turn. Rattlesnakes were a constant peril.

The breaking plow was quite heavy, so that a man could hardly turn it over. It needed no one to hold it when plowing and was guided mostly by the oxen or horses. The plow varied from 18 inches to three feet wide and needed three to seven oxen to pull it. The oxen were hitched to a long chain, coupled onto the front of the plow-beam. This was of wood, usually six inches thick and 12 inches high and some 12 feet long. At the front end, it was supported by two wheels about three feet in diameter, set four feet apart. The plow shares became dull quickly and had to be sharpened. This was done by heating them redhot and pounding them out sharp.

The log house was hard to keep tight and warm, because the logs would swell and shrink alternately. Many collected newspapers to paper their cabins on the inside to keep them warmer in winter.

When the land was first placed on sale, it was entirely open prairie, except for hundreds of small ponds. There were no roads until the 1880s. So men traveled in a straight line to where they wanted to go. The prairie mud was so sticky it was difficult for the Marrowbone farmers to haul crops to market. The physicians made their rounds on horseback. Rabbits were everywhere, and they were killed for food with long muzzle-loading muskets.

The hundreds of ponds had to be drained to make room for farm crops. Every town had a grain elevator or two, and there was a general store, dealing in drygoods and groceries. The women bought gingham and calico for dresses, aprons and sunbonnets. The grocery offered coffee, tea, spices, sugar, rice, vanilla and crackers, but baker's bread had to be ordered in advance. All sorts of tools were available. The blacksmith shops were always busy. Each town had rows of hitching posts, well-chewed at the top.

On the side of the street ran a board sidewalk, interrupted by occasional gaps.

When train service started, two trains went north through Bethany each day and two went south. The engine had a big smokestack and cowcatcher. The passenger cars were always dusty, heated in winter by potbellied stoves and lighted by coal oil lamps.

The railroad through Bethany then was called the Peoria, Decatur and Evansville, abbreviated to P.D.&E., and called in derision People Donated Everything.

Most Marrowbone Townships farmers kept cows, which offered several gallons of milk, kept in earthenware crocks in the darkened basement. When the cream rose, it was skimmed off and churned while the skim milk went to pigs and cats. The pioneers liked their cream on pies, fruit and cereal. Most settlers had a vegetable garden near the house and a potato patch.

Monday was wash day, and the big washboiler went on the stove, nearly full of cistern water. Into it was shaved a whole cake of yellow laundry soap and much of the laundry was boiled. Tuesday was ironing day, and what a hot job it was! A good fire had to be kept on the stove and two irons were always on to heat and another in use.

Tired after a long day of work, most Bethany settlers retired by 8 o'clock. Others might play checkers, using white and black buttons, or dominos.

Although cabins leaked cold air, still colds were few. Often mother would wrap a hot flatiron in a towel and let kids take it to bed with them. Baths were taken in a washtub on the kitchen floor.

The first post office was established in 1856 with J. D. Livesay as the postmaster. William P. (Uncle Billy) McGuire followed Livesey, then came O. P. Walker, A. R. Scott and J. G. Smutz. Before the days of the railroad, different men in town took turns going to Sullivan on horseback after the mail.

One of the first administrative acts in Moultrie County was the appointment of overseers of the poor, one in each district.

It was the duty of those appointed to "cause all poor persons who have become a public charge to be farmed out at public expense on the first Monday in May, yearly, to the

person who is the lowest bidder. The "farmers of the poor" received from the county the cost of the "common necessities of life," for their charges, who, in return, performed "moderate labor." Children of the poor, whose parents were dead, were bound out as apprentices, boys to the age of 21, and girls till they were 18. The sick and the insane were farmed out along with the well, but the cost of their medical care was met by the county.

The new century brought many new benefits, such as Blizzard's Ice Cream Freezer, carpet sweepers, feather dusters, a Ward Wringer for drying clothes. And churn handles had appeared on the washers.

Dr. Vadakin was now showing traveling troupes at his Opera House. Later, first Aaron DeBruler, Charlie Harned and then Jim Bushert, in 1920-30, put on movies at the Opera House.

Many early experiments in Bethany, such as oil exploration and sheep raising, ended in failure.

The sheep raising undertaking came in 1845, and was begun in Marrowbone and Todd's Point by a group of Englishmen, including Thomas and John Noble and Robert Golding, who bought 700 acres for that purpose.

Thomas Noble had settled in Stark County, Ohio, in 1831 and had encouraged other Englishmen to join him in his project. One was John Atkinson.

After buying the land, Noble sent Atkinson with his family and a flock of 900 sheep out of Ohio bound for Marrowbone Township. They drove the herd all the way, and it took eight weeks.

After arrival, wolves began to attack the sheep, even in daytime. One night they killed 100. Nevertheless, the flock grew to 5,000 head. Soon Atkinson went into the sheep business on his own.

Thomas Noble died in 1848. When his brother, John, died in 1864, he had accumulated 5,000 acres in Moultrie and Shelby Counties. His nephew, Thomas Noble, son of his brother, Thomas Noble, then came to Moultrie County to manage the estate.

Other Englishmen followed. One was Skelton Birkett, who arrived in 1848, whose holdings grew to 11,000 acres.

Todd's Point in those days had a shoemaker, postmaster, two stores, a wagonmaker, two blacksmiths, a doctor (D. L. Davidson), and a lodge hall.

The sheep-raising experiment disappeared after the Civil War when the Englishmen realized that farming would pay more than sheep-raising. But their large land holdings at least enabled their heirs to enjoy a good life.

In the early days, when settlers bunked around their campfires, friendly coyotes would come in to warm themselves. And at once the pioneers would shoot them for food.

Chapter 3

Bat Masterson Aids Col. Freeland

Many families moving to Bethany from the East in the early days ran into horrible trouble.

But Captain John A. Freeland reversed the process in coming to Bethany from the West.

John was a descendant of James Freeland of Londonderry, Ireland. After the Revolutionary War, James moved to North Carolina.

Capt. John Andrew Freeland (1839-1916) was a hero in the Civil War who later settled in Edwards County, Kan.

His family consisted of his wife, Lyde, sons, William, John H., Joseph L. and daughters Belle (Wiedner) and Maude (Armstrong), then a babe-in-arms.

Soon after arrival in Kansas, the Captain, a hearty, friendly man, was elected judge for Edwards County.

While they were living in Kinsley, the county seat, robbers held up the Santa Fe train at night at the town's depot.

The Freelands lived about a block from the station. Sounds of shots and loud swearing filled the warm night air. Captain Freeland thought the town was under attack by Indians.

Mrs. Freeland lit a match but her husband blew it out.

"You only make a target for the Indians to shoot at," he warned.

In the Freeland home, as in others, confusion reigned.

James Alcorn, a close friend of Freeland, joined him to look into the incident. They crept low and silently toward the station. There wasn't a tree or rock in town to hide behind.

They soon learned that it was a train robbery and the bandits had fled.

The railroad company at once had law enforcement officers in touch with Bat Masterson, who was marshall at Ford Dodge, Kan.

Bat counted up the bad boys at Fort Dodge and noticed several missing. Among them was a fellow whose home was not far from Kinsley but who had been hanging out with a Ford Dodge gang.

Bat played a hunch, which proved correct. He went to the fellow's home, arrested him and in a short time had the whole gang rounded up and the loot recovered.

A few months after the train robbery, the Cherokee Indians broke out of their Oklahoma territory, in which the government had recently confined them and made a raid on Kinsley.

Once again Kinsley was in an uproar. So again Captain Freeland and Alcorn went gumshoeing in the darkness, and a few shots from their rifles dispersed the Indians.

Freeland did not blame the Indians for breaking out of their terrible confinement. There was a long drought, plus a two-year scourge of grasshoppers. Streams ran dry and food was scarce. All game was gone. Settlers were fleeing the area in fear of pestilence and famine.

Freeland had many other adventures, outside of his thrilling experiences in war. Once he organized a buffalo hunting party in Kansas. An expert marksman, he killed several buffalos. After shooting a large buffalo bull, he rode up to him and dismounted to examine the wound. The bull, infuriated, arose and would have gored him if he had not been young and quick and able to evade him. And his fast horse was standing nearby.

These and other adventures had given the Freeland family a bellyful of danger, so they hitched up their horses to a covered wagon and in August, 1879, headed for the peaceful town of Bethany.

Along the way, the Captain and his daughter, Belle, had to skirmish for camping places and food. They usually got eggs for nothing. But sometimes they paid 5 cents a dozen for them. Often they were given fresh produce and fruit right from the field.

But the Freelands had money enough to pay for toll roads they encountered in five places.

They stayed with the Captain's sisters, Mrs. Albert Roney, in Dalton City for awhile, then moved to a farm near Bethany.

Not long after their arrival, H. L. (Earl) and Homer Freeland were born. Both are now dead.

But the Freeland dynasty had been established in the rich farmlands, and many of their descendants are scattered over the Midwest.

John Andrew Freeland, who died June 25, 1916, at the age of 76 and is buried in the Bethany cemetery, belonged to no church. But he was a firm believer in God and in immortality. He was broad and tolerant in his religious views. He also was a scholar of the Bible. In short, he was deist.

Captain Jack, as he was familiarly known, loved people and he also had a heart-felt emotion for the poor and oppressed.

The Captain was a grandfather of the remarkable Allane Weidner Hogan, a vivacious woman who lives in Pontiac, Ill. and who looks the same as she did 40 years ago.

The late Earl Freeland had a sword carried by his father, Captain Jack, who was believed to have been Col U.S. Grant's youngest captain in the Civil War.

Captain Jack also was the first supervisor of Marrowbone Township.

Chapter 4

Lively Days in Early Bethany

Bethany always has been hooked on sports, entertainment and hobbies.

It probably started back in 1846 when Abraham Lincoln honored the bar of Moultrie County with his fun-loving stories.

In those days, wrestling matches were popular, and Abe was a good grappler himself.

To entertain him, Dave Campbell, Moultrie County's prosecuting attorney, who considered himself one of the strongest of men, engaged in a wrestling match with one of Marrowbone's bullies.

In the struggle, the seat of Campbell's pants were torn.

He then was hardly presentable to appear in court. But, a genial fellow, it didn't bother him. His fellow attorneys passed the hat to buy him a new pair of pants. But the attorney refused the money so it was handed to Lincoln to be used in his next campaign.

But then the droll Abe said, "I could not conscientiously contribute to anything with the END in view."

Amusements of this distant day centered on athletic skill, rather than mental.

Skills in woodcraft, superiority of muscular development, accuracy in shooting, speed of foot would raise a man in the pecking order.

The men and boys even entered contests with Indians. Every man had a rifle that he kept in good condition.

At every gathering, wrestling, foot races and shooting contests were held, and the winners were regarded as heroes. As prizes, they received a gallon of whiskey or a turkey.

Raising of fancy chickens became popular in the period between 1910-1925. T. A. Scott, who had a mantel full of trophies for his roosters and hens, W. E. Crowder, C. W. Sanner, J. R. Crowder, D. H. Rieter, R. B. Wheeler and J. W. Hale, all were involved in exhibitions at fairs.

Many persons contributed to the well-being of Bethany but the various bands did it best. Logan Lansden, the first director, purchased the first instrument in town. The first band was organized in 1877. It included J. F. Knight, G. T. Sanner, Andrew Bankson, Davis F. Kennedy and G. T. Hill.

In 1881, there was a string trio, made up of Jim Ashmore, Troy Scott and Homer Freeland.

A bigger band was organized in 1899. It consisted of Ed Biely, T. L. Hudson, Les Kennedy, Chink Lynn, James McGuire, Roe Starbuck, Roe Hogg, Jim Hale, Russell Mead, Albert Biely, Bob Low, Reg Crowder and Ed Kendall. It was sponsored by the Odd Fellows lodge.



1906 Bethany I.O.O.F. Band. Pictured are: Sitting, Earl Sharp: Front row: Lowell Wheeler, Dick Kennedy, Ed Biely, Herschel Hale, Reg. Crowder, James Hale. Back row: Fred Lytle, Ralph Varner, Raymond Scheer, Albert Biely - Director, Lon Gross, Roe Hogg, Barton Roney, Clyde Low, Dale McMenemy.

The directors over the years were Logan Landsden, Russell Mead, E. E. (Heck) Kennedy, Albert Biely, Will Huff, Prof. Oscar Schwartze of Decatur, George Pierson of Mattoon and Irving J. Freeland.

In 1900, Bethany had a two-story bandstand, located near the depot. The musicians played in the open air top story, and the instruments were stored in the closed quarters below. That also was the year the Illinois Central took over the railroad running through Bethany.

In grade school in 1905, a band was formed composed of Raymond Scheer, Herschel Hale, Fred Lytle, Ancil Livesey and Walter Roney.

Soon the lodge ran out of money, and the Bethany Band was disbanded.

Then Clarence Tohill came to Bethany as the undertaker in 1910. He solicited funds from the merchants to reactivate the band. And his wife, Opal, enhanced it as soloist.

Raymond, Scheer, a musical genius and principal at Sullivan High, recalls that all Marrowbone Township rallied behind the new band, which performed on Tuesday nights.

Then the band was made up of Irving J. Freeland, Carl M. Crowder, Raymond Scheer, Dewey Low, Virgil Hamp-ton, and Mrs. Tohill. Freeland was the band's director.



1924 Bethany Concert Band. Pictured are, left to right: Front row George Pearson, Director; Dr. George Weatherby, flute; Anton Freeland, clarinet; Raymond Scheer, clarinet; Merlin Freeland, clarinet; Irving Freeland, clarinet; Robert Logan, alto melophone; Frank Gibbon, alto melophone; James Ward, alto; Lloyd Francisco, alto; Sam Hall, cornet; Chas. Lorsch, cornet; Ewing Freeland, cornet.

Back row: Louie Ludwig, clarinet; Arthur Wilkinson, clarinet; Rex Reese, snare drum; Jim Bushert, bass; Dick Kennedy, bass; Carl Crowder, baritone; Ralph Nuttall, bass drum; Lubin Freeland, trombone; C.O. Tohill, trombone and manager; Reg. Crowder, trombone; Dr. Watters, cornet; Opal Tohill, vocalist.

It was during the 1920s, under the leadership of Schwartz, that the band was expanded and reached its peak performance. Schwartz was a graduate of Leipsig Conservatory.

He also was instructor of music for several years at Bethany High School and gave many private lessons, as he could play any instrument.

Irving J. and Ewing Freeland studied under Robert Walter of the Chicago College of Music.

Scheer studied music at the University of Wisconsin, also at Lincoln College and directed many high school bands.

Mrs. Tohill, who remained soloist for the band for 20 years, studied under Myrna Sharlow Hitchcock of Millikin University.

In the 1920s, the Band Concerts originated in the center of the intersection of the two downtown streets.

The band was so good it played in other towns, at chatauquas and other celebrations.

But the tour de force was the Tuesday night concerts in Bethany. So popular were the concerts, everyone wanted a closeup seat. Bethany residents would park their cars in the afternoon close to the bandstand and then walk downtown at night. Thus, the late arriving farmers had to park in the far reaches.

It really didn't matter for young folks, as well as older people, spent most of the time walking up and down the street, greeting old friends, many of whom had come from other towns.

It would be difficult to estimate the number of romances and marriages evolving from those hand-holding strolls on concert night.

Perhaps the most popular pause was at Smith's Drug store, to the west of the bandstand, in the Scott State Bank Building. There friends and lovers would sit in the wireback chairs by the round tables where they wolfed Cokes or sodas or, if hungry, a milkshake.

Although long wooden blades whirled overhead to dispell the heat, still middle-aged women made use of their palm fans.

Youngsters didn't care to linger in the hot soda fountains but rather ordered either an Eskimo Pie or Polar Joy (a chocolate cylinder filled with ice cream) and were on their

way. Both sold for a nickel.

To the south of the bandstand, the big attraction was Ed Mast's red popcorn wagon, and through the windows wafted the salty buttery aroma of the corn as he heaped it into large, white sacks.

To the east, the strollers looked in at the pool room, where fumes of beer and smoke were strong. They also paused at Vadakin's Drug store for a Green River or Orange Crush or a two-glass chocolate shake for 10 cents.

Across the street, they studied the fliers for the Saturday movie at the Opera House. The serials were the big draw for you had to find out how Tom Mix or Fred Thompson or some other cowboy hero got out of their desperate predicament of the preceeding week.

At most concerts, some church gave an ice cream and cake social on the lawn near the town. Freshly made ice cream, soft and velvety, was often laced by fresh strawberries, blackberries or peaches.

It wasn't difficult to find boys willing to turn the freezers, for that meant they could lick the dasher.

J. H. Crowder, one of Bethany's 26 bandsmen, in the early part of the century, was grand commander of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1913, when the band went to Chattanooga to play at the national encampment.

At the Bethany concerts, the air was sweet, flavored by the aroma of honeysuckle, and youngsters always hated to hear the Star Spangled Banner, which meant the concert was over.

After one concert, Walt and Lois Davisson and their two children, Mary and Donald, were returning home in their buggy. Their horse Persimor, became frightened by the headlights of an oncoming car. He bolted and upset the buggy. Luckily, no one was hurt.

Talking about it in 1975, Mary, now the wife of Ward Thomas, said after that they drove, Jim, a more gentle horse.

Von McClain and Rev. Raymond McAllister, young pastor of the Christian Church, often sang at the concerts.

McAllister, a brilliant speaker, was loved by all the beauties in town, and he dated most of them. When he sang, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," every lovely thought he was singing to them.

Eventually, he married a natural beauty, Pauline DeBruler, also a musician, and they have had a happy life in Webster Grove, Mo.

Probably no other small town ever had so many good-looking girls as did Bethany as the Twenties turned into the Thirties.

Nothing else so mixed the community and the sexes as did concert night, and there was a great sadness when it all ended in 1935.

C. O. Tohill, who had made the band, was in failing health, and he died in 1937.



C. O. Tohill, instrumental in keeping concert nights in Bethany until shortly before his death in 1937.

However, the spectacular event may yet be revived. Many young bandsmen are around today, and such young community leaders as Ruth Suddarth, Sam Scott, Glenn Austin and Gary Himstedt were endeavoring in 1975 to re-establish family nights such as the Ice Cream Social complete with local musicians performing.

So many other special efforts enlivened the early days of Bethany.

The Presbyterian church started its Harvest Home in 1881, and it ran on into the 1920s.

The gastronomic treat came each autumn when huge kettles of chicken crackled over a fire in a pit below, filling the quiet night air with its fragrance. And, from the church windows in the basement, the flavor of pumpkin and berry pies sweetened the atmosphere.

Through most of the early part of the century, there was a tennis court behind the Presbyterian Church.

At one Harvest Home, a stray ball landed in the gravy bowl, so later some diner might think he was being served a meat ball.

In 1975, there were only two tennis courts in town, both at the high school. In the early days, there were four. Besides the Presbyterian court, there was one back of A. R. Scott's house and another at Dr. E. A. Grabb's livery stable. And a fourth back of the present palatial home of Lloyd (Junior) Younger. Since the ground is largely clay, it was the one of the Midwest's few clay courts.

Still another summer delight that ran from 1920 to 1930 was the Knights of Pythias picnic, always held on some country field. It always drew a huge crowd because a new Ford was given away in a raffle.

Junior Younger recalled his father telling him of a hired hand at his place who had no money when he was hired. He bought one ticket at the K. P. picnic and won the Ford. He sold it for \$600 and then felt quite affluent.

The K. P. picnic offered something for everyone, and the merriment never ended. Huge tanks were filled with ice and soft drinks. At stands, hamburgers and hot dogs were available. Contests of all sorts were staged, including foot races, sack races, tug-of-wars.

One picnic featured a wrestling match between two strong men of Marrowbone, Fred (Slicker) Orris and Lafe Eskridge. A shooting match, devoid of histrionics, it was won by Orris after an hour's struggle.

The picnic always was well advertised. Once, Ed Geotz dressed up like a gorilla in red underwear and paraded around Decatur in an open car.

Bethany youth also competed in any sporting event that presented itself.

In 1889, Bethany had a friendly, enthusiastic youth named Billy McGinnis, who was always eager to help other persons.

A driving spring rain that year flooded Marrowbone Creek. So many of the youngsters decided they would have a horse race across the raging waters. The angry stream frightened Billy's horse and he balked. His leg became stuck in the stirrup and as horse and rider went under, Billy was kicked in the head by the horse and killed.

It was a shock to the Bethany community, for it never had a better-liked kid.

In 1893, Bethany had its first baseball team, made up of George Goodpasture, pitcher, Ed Conklin, George Hall, W. S. Human, Jim Flory, W. H. Logan, Jim McGuire and U. G. Kennedy. The diamond was located where the Presbyterian Church now stands.

Around 1910, Bethany had a better baseball team, including Ernest Roberts, pitcher; Amos Lansden, Perry Goetz, Homer Freeland, Walter Bankson, Charles Foster, Oscar Thompson, and Will McIntyre. The games were played at Fortner's Park.

Bethany also had a roaring Fourth of July celebration in the early part of the century. The day started when D. G. (Uncle Dave) Sanner fired his cannon. Fireworks started at 6 p.m.

A big tent was erected near the bandstand, where the adults spent the day listening to speeches, and the kids took part in races and other contests.

The well-heeled citizens who liked to travel rode the Illinois Central Clover Leaf and Nickel Plate Railroad from Bethany to Niagara Falls. The round trip cost only \$8.50.

Bethany played its first high school football game Oct. 9, 1915 on Mathias Field, losing to Moweaqua, 39-0. But the boys seemed to get the hang of it quickly, for in the next game they routed Argenta, 75-0.

The first basketball game played in Bethany came in 1905. The town team, whose members were Lute Hutson, Troy Scott, Roe Hogg, Cy Young and Foxie Logan, challenged the high school team, whose classes then were in the grade school building.

The school team had Raymond Scheer, Herschel Hale, Fred Lytle, Ancil Livesey and Walter Roney. Playing on the outdoor court, the school five easily won.

In 1916, when Maureen (Peachy) Brock, Lois Mathias, Gladys Crowder and Allane Weidner, were in the sixth grade at Bethany Grade School, they formed the Starlight

quartet that sang at public gatherings all through high school.

In 1969, they had a reunion at the home of Mrs. George (Brock) Plum's home in Los Angeles. There Mrs. Everett (Weidner) Hogan, Mrs. Gwen (Crowder) Coffin and Mrs. Earl (Mathias) Lippold sang together once more.

Allane is another Bethany girl who seems to have cheated Father Time. She still has a schoolgirl's figure, the same dark hair, the same sparkling eyes.

But, oh how she frightened us kids of the neighborhood with her ghost stories in the 1920s, told on her front porch.

My sister, Julia, and I were about too scared to walk home for Allane said that the hedge that we must pass was frequented by ghosts.

When Jim Ashmore was a youth in Bethany, he had an ice house and delivered ice in the summer to Bethany householders, according to Mrs. Scheer. In the winter he cut the ice from a pond on the Lansden farm, a mile east of Bethany.

Later, Ashmore became a famous coach who served at North Carolina University and several other Eastern colleges, and he was the first coach at Millikin in 1912.

While coaching in the East, he would return to Bethany in the summer to play golf with Troy Scott.

One afternoon Jim decided his golf shoes needed cleaning so he washed them with gasoline. Then he went out to the Sullivan Country Club to play. And, shortly, his feet felt as if they were on fire as the sun hit the gasoline.

Ah, these were elegant times. I remember how Ashmore would let me drive his long, red Stutz around Sullivan while he was golfing with my father.

All the kids seemed filled with energy in those days for there was no television to hold them to their hearthside.

And some of the girls were just as hopped-up, especially Margaret Armstrong. One Halloween, Margaret and I pushed over an outdoor toilet — and there was a man in it.

Raffles were common in the early days. Once Walt Stables, who for 30 years operated a big grocery store, traded his lottery ticket for one held by Jack Knight — who then won an expensive diamond ring.

The late J. W. (Jack) Armstrong, who with his brother, Sylvester and Alva, for 40 years operated a hardware store in Bethany, probably met more famous persons than

anyone else in town.

Among them was Annie Oakley, acclaimed as the world's most accurate shot with pistol, rifle and shotgun.

She came to Bethany by train one morning in 1902 and called at the Armstrong Hardware to solicit orders for Peter's cartridges.

Then Jack had her put on a demonstration on Main Street. Annie had Jack throw glass balls, about the size of golf balls, into the air, and she shot them down with her Winchester rifle. A crowd soon gathered and the Bethany policeman arrested Annie and fined her \$3.

Armstrong also saw her performance at the Buffalo Bill Show in Decatur. Jack further saw Carry Nation, Sam Jones, William Jennings Bryan and Billy Sunday.

When there wasn't anything going on in Bethany in the early days, the boys created their own amusement.

One of the stunts was putting a wagon on top of the old grade school building. It had to be taken up piece by piece, to be reassembled.

But one unknown kid was even more original. He attached a thin wire to the school house bell one summer day. And he extended it to his perch in a tree across the street in the yard of the Methodist Church.

Then he began to pull the wire and ring the bell. The village policeman rushed up to see what was going on. When the boy saw him coming, he stopped the ringing. The officer found no one in the building and returned to town.

Then the ringing started again. Back came the policeman, thoroughly mystified. After four fruitless missions he gave up, never knowing what rang the bell.

Bethany's best current celebration is the Fall Festival, started in 1968. It runs for two days, Friday and Saturday. On one day, there's a fish fry; the next a chicken fry.

Chapter 5

The Movers and the Shakers

Dr. James H. Vadakin provided culture for Bethany; A. R. Scott offered finance and Will Bone did so much for agriculture.

In 1975, Jennie Collier, long a neighbor of the late Will Bone, still had a vivid memory of him.

"He used to pick up a handful of soil and let it fall through his fingers. As he did so he would say, 'This is pure gold . . . pure gold.' "

Bone believed in lots of walking for good health.

"Often I would see him walking into town from his farm," recalled Jennie. "I would offer him a ride in my car. But he always refused. 'I'd rather walk,' Will would say. 'It's the perfect exercise.' "

Will Bone was the first farmer to plant soybeans, now rivaling corn as the Midwest's leading crop. He gave his seeds to other farmers, and he added some of his soil — to make the beans grow better.

Will Bone was a descendant of many families of Bones going back to John Bone, born in Ulster, Ireland, in 1649, according to Jim Bushert, a San Diego historian, who for years operated a garage in Bethany.

Will was a grandson of Andrew M. Bone, who arrived in Marrowbone township in 1843.

Andrew, as did other pioneers, built his cabin by felling trees. Huge fireplaces were constructed at one end of a cabin, used for cooking and heating. Many cabins were covered with pelts of raccoons, opossums and wolves to hold in the heat in winter months. And they were lighted by means of greased paper for windows.

The floors were built on hard clay or soil. They had no fresh vegetables for the children. However, there was plenty of fresh meat, as squirrel, rabbit, quail, prairie chicken, wild turkey and deer were plentiful. They could substitute honey for sugar. In the summer, berries grew wild, and they also had walnuts and hickory nuts in the fall.

Isabella Kennedy knew the uses of herbs, and she gathered them in the timber and prepared them for use as medicine. She also spun and wove fabric for their clothing. This was done from wool shorn from sheep.

Corn meal was made from the corn they raised, and ground by using one stone with a hollow place on one side for the grain, a stone about four inches long and two inches in diameter with a rounded end to crush and grind the kernels. It was the run over a screen to take out parts not useable for food. This same method was also used to make flour from the wheat kernels.

Isabella also made soap for the family use, by using the fat from animals they killed for food and wood ash from their fireplace.

From corn, they made their hominy by using lye to remove the hull, then drying and cracking for use.

Isabella made dye from the liquid of walnut hulls, berries and other fruits to give color to the fabric she spun.

Yes, the early settlers had to be artists at improvising as there were no stores to buy their necessities.

Among the first weddings in Marrowbone was that of Thomas Ashley Bone and Martha Jane Mitchell, performed in 1832.

The first Sunday School was organized in the home of Lucinda and Andrew McCreary Bone in April, 1832.

The hardship of homesteading hardly compared to the trip to Marrowbone for Isabella and Elias Kennedy and the Andrew Bones. They had loaded their meager possessions in a wagon for the 1,000 mile trip from Tennessee to Marrowbone.

It was slow traveling, requiring 50 days, and food was often scarce.

When the two families arrived, they found many Kickapoo Indians, who were very friendly, and who even invited them to set by their campfires.

A. R. Scott will be examined in another chapter on the Scott State Bank.

Dr. Vadakin always plumped for Bethany, and nothing ever daunted him.

A businessman, as well as a doctor, he invested in a number of stores in Bethany.

Then, on Feb. 15, 1901, a fire demolished the entire

Vadakin block, destroying seven buildings, six of which were owned by Dr. Vadakin.

Resourceful, Doc announced the next week he would build a fireproof, two-story brick building, featuring Vadakin's Opera House.



Dr. James H. Vadakin

It was completed in November, 1901, and the first event to be held in the structure was a Thanksgiving dinner served by the women of the Methodist Church.

The Vadakin Opera House soon became the entertainment center for Central Illinois.

It had two shows a week, offering music, operetta, stage plays and even magic.

Dr. Vadakin was able to book traveling shows using the Illinois Central Railroad between Decatur and Indianapolis.

Often they would have a spare day for the Opera House.

Virgil Hampton, better known as V-Roy, the Magician, claims that Francis X. Bushman, Lillian Russell, Maude Adams and Sarah Barnhart performed in the Vadakin Opera House.

V-Roy said that Vadakin showed him his book that contained all the entertainers who had appeared there. He told Virgil that, after he died, he could have the book.

But, though Mrs. Vadakin and Virgil searched his desk and other belongings after his death at the age of 64 on April 27, 1925, they could never find it.

At least one show was too big for the Opera House. It was "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which arrived in two trains, replete with blood hounds and many props. So a tent was put up that seated 3,000.

Still, the Opera House was used for many events. It was verified that Eddie Foy and the Seven Foy boys did appear at the Opera House. In 1906, the Cumberland Church used it for services while the congregation's new church was being built.

After vaudeville faded, the Opera House was used for movies through the 1920s.

Serials were the rage in those days, involving such cowboy stars as Buck Jones, William Desmond, and Fred Thompson, et al. The hero was always left in a perilous position at the end of each two-reeler so the kids would return the next week to see how he extricated himself. The serials usually ran from 15 to 20 weeks.

Virgil Ward, Bethany's park commissioner in 1975, reported that he and Hyllis Kennedy Watkins provided music for the Opera House in that period.

Jennie Collier, who reached the age of 84 in 1975, has complete recall. She remembered seeing a movie at the Opera House in 1900 when a reader by the screen told what the stars were saying.

"What was the movie?" I asked.

"Hiawatha," she replied.

Born in Sullivan, March 30, 1861, Dr. Vadakin was the son of Henry F. and Asinth Vadakin, his family hailing from Vermont.

Philip Vadakin, grandfather of Dr. Vadakin, was among the first settlers in Moutrie County. He laid out a town in East Nelson Township, originally planned as the county seat. Henry died in 1888.

His wife was a second cousin of Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain.

Dr. Vadakin took his early education in Sullivan schools, then he headed for Rockford, where he attended high school and Becker's Business College. He next entered the School of Pharmacy in Carbondale in 1882.

He clerked in a drug store in Sullivan for a while, then established a drug business in Bethany, where he remained the rest of his life. Shortly after, he added more merchandise and had a general store, as well.

Dr. Vadakin invented such things as "Casterole" and "Vadakin's Instant Relief." He also created such commodities as "Sticking Fly Paper." His medicines soon became known all over the Midwest for he advertised them widely.

Throughout his business career, he constantly read the latest books on medicine. In 1890, he entered the Kentucky School of Medicine and was graduated in microscopy, surgery and chemistry. In 1891, he completed his full medical course, receiving his M.D. degree with highest honors. He also won a degree in bacteriology. And he demonstrated his skill in surgery and pathology.

In January, 1882, Dr. Vadakin was married to Nora May Meacham of Weaverly. To them, three girls were born. Ruby and Pearl died in childhood, but Diamond became an outstanding musician. The marriage ended in divorce.

Dr. Vadakin was married to Maud Howell of Lovington in April, 1915. She died in 1962.

In 1894, Dr. Vadakin built a home in Bethany, and in 1898 and 1899 he operated his drug and store and ice cream parlor in the building next to his home. (This house was still used in 1975 by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Scheer, who, though in their 80s, remained among the best historians of Bethany's early days.)

After the fire, Dr. Vadakin put up a brick building to house his drug store.

When Dr. Vadakin moved his drug store, he also transferred the back bar from his old store. The same bar brightened the Bethany Pharmacy until 1975.



The antique back bar that accompanied the soda fountain which was purchased by Dr. Vadakin before the turn of the century.

Charles Harned, a longtime Vadakin employee, joined Doc in the new building.

In later years, Dr. Vadakin became a pudgy man who liked to relax over a drink at the end of a busy day.

Meantime, Diamond Vadakin was gaining fame as a music teacher, and in 1905 she presented her students in a recital at the Opera House.

The building featured a Fourth of July celebration in 1902, and Dr. Vadakin played his large, disc Graphophone in the parade. Vadakin also provided free concerts for the town.

He purchased Bethany's third auto in 1902, a Buick. Mrs. Raymond Scheer remembers how the children would gather when they heard his car coming so they could push him up the hill.

Apparently, there was nothing Dr. Vadakin couldn't do.

At Bethany High School's first graduation class in 1890, he sang a solo, "I Am King Over Land and Sea."

The class numbered five graduates, Nellie Jones, Rachel McGuire, J. H. Molholland, Hugh Scott and Lee Tittle. Mulholland gave the valedictory address, and all of the graduates had a role in the program.

In May, 1910, Dr. Vadakin traded his drug store for an 11-room house and 10 lots, following 25 years in the drug business. Shortly after, he repurchased the drug store.

After Dr. Vadakin's death, Charles Harned continued to operate the drug store until 1930, when it was sold to C. B. Smith, who had been operating a drug store in the Scott State Bank building.

Both the drug stores had large wall fans, which revolved like a windmill in summer.

Each fountain had a large green ball on the counter, filled with Green River and another orange ball filled with Orange Crush.

Coca Cola was coming in strong then and would soon become America's most popular drink.

Ice cream sodas were made in a paper cup inserted in a metal holder with a handle on it. Straws were popular, too.

Youngsters coming into the two soda fountains in those days often asked for "A chocolate soda you can suck through a straw."

Between 1910 and 1920, medicine shows appeared occasionally in Bethany. The spieler usually had some

medicine that would cure all your ailments. Then he would say, "I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to put a real bargain before you Bethany folks." This meant he would give you two bottles for the price of one and throw in a kewpie doll.

But Bethany citizens were well read, and the medicine man did very little business in the town.

Vernon Craig worked for several years for C. B. Smith in the Vadakin building, and, if you complimented him on his basketball ability, he would fill your milkshake to the top of the shaker. The cost: 10 cents.

Dr. Vadakin left several buildings, including the drug store, to his wife and, on her death, his holdings were to go to the Decatur and Macon County Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Rawlings purchased the drug store from Smith and later sold it to Willard Brown. When payment was not received, they took it over again. Mr. and Mrs. Leo Poole were the next owners, and they sold it in 1959 to Hulbert Mitchell, who took his given name from Dr. Vadakin's middle name. Hulbert considerably enlarged the drug store.

Mitchell purchased the building from the hospital in 1964, and, after his death, the drug store was sold to Bill Lancaster of Sullivan.

In June, 1969, a group of Bethany businessmen purchased the Vadakin Opera House building and, since it had been condemned as a fire trap, it was demolished in August, 1969.

It was replaced by Scott State Bank's motor building, where deposits can be left at off-hours and it also has an underground parking lot.

Music became the complete life of Diamond Vadakin Brand.

Diamond, who was well into her 80s in 1975, has been on the faculty of the Springfield College of Music since 1920. While still on the college staff, she has not taught music at the school since 1969.

But she still was teaching several pupils at her home at 539½ South Grande Avenue, West.

Diamond was destined to be a musician. Her mother sang, and Dr. Vadakin played the piano.

Diamond started piano lessons when she was only 5, and she always liked to sing. While still a girl, she played the

piano and organ for movies at the Opera House in Bethany, as well as for productions in other towns.

After graduation from high school, Diamond received training in piano, voice and other subjects at Illinois Woman's College (now MacMurray) in Jacksonville.

Her coming to Springfield was prompted by the fact that Genevieve Clark Wilson, a famed voice teacher, was on the staff at Springfield College of Music.

After only a year as a student, Diamond proved so skilled, she was asked to join the faculty as an assistant to Mrs. Wilson.

Diamond also studied with Oscar Saenger of New York while he was at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago for summer sessions, and she later worked under Frantz Proschowski at the Chicago Musical College.

Diamond had many opportunities to perform in opera in the East, but, as an only child, she wanted to remain close to Bethany.

Diamond did participate in "Elijah," staged in the State Armory in Springfield. She also sang "The Messiah." Her performance as the widow of Zerepath in Elijah elicited fine reviews.

Mrs. Brand also sang the lead soprano role in "Madam Butterfly" and such other productions as "Faust."

Looking back over more than a half-century, Mrs. Brand remembers best the magnificent voice of Ernestine Schumann-Heink, as well as her "funny shoes;" and she cannot forget the time Lawrence Tibbet forgot the words of "On the Road to Mandalay," though he had sung the song for more than 10 years.

Although Bethany was more populous in 1975 (1,200) than it was in the early century, it has fewer business houses.

In 1975, for the first time in nearly 80 years, Bethany was without a soda fountain.

For years, dating back to 1898, citizens could enjoy a Coke, an ice cream soda or a milkshake while waiting for a prescription or while on a coffee break.

All that remains of the fountain era is the help-yourself coffee motif at the old Smith Drug store.

Bill Lancaster, the new owner, dispensed with the food bar and soda fountain.

Gary Himstedt, the handsome, young pharmacist and operator of the Bethany store, said in 1975 he plans to continue the gift and sundry lines and may expand the stock of colognes and Hallmark items.

Sadly, the beautiful old bar, first used by Dr. Vadakin in 1899, has disappeared.

It was owned in 1975 by Mrs. Maurine Mitchell, widow of Hulbert Mitchell.

Yes, the Bethany business district has really shrunk. Why, at one time, there were five barber shops operating in Bethany for the big need then was for shaves. And only the barber had a straight-edge blade.

In 1915, Bethany could count up five barber shops, viz: Marshall Ray, Charles Younger, Bob Watson, Jess Boyer and George Spenser.

For shaving, each customer had his mug on the rack on the wall with his name on it. The shops also included baths, where the weary salesman could refresh himself after driving a buggy all day over the hot countryside.

At the time, there also were two movie houses and six grocery stores, operated by A. L. Redman, Hal Logan, J. K. Starr, John Robert Crowder, Walter Stables and Gurly Graham.

In 1975, Bethany had no grocery store on Main Street, no movie theater and only one barber shop.

Mrs. Scheer recalled that the first movies in Bethany were shown in the Vadakin Opera House. Aaron DeBruler, Charlie Harned and Jim Bushert operated the movie house from 1920 into the 1930s.

Most of the movies were shown in the summer. In the winter, the Opera House offered such plays as "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," "The Face on the Bar Room Floor," "Rebecca of SunnyBrook Farm," and, certainly, "East Lynn."

Charlie and Edith Harned operated the Cozy Theater on a first-floor in a downtown building.

Chapter 6

Bethany — In Its Growing Years

Bethany was shocked May 5, 1902 by the death of its cherished doctor, Eleazar A. Pyatt, who died of dysentery.

Pyatt had served as assistant surgeon-general of the Confederate Army during the Civil War.



Dr. E. A. Pyatt

After marriage in 1865 to Anne E. Mahaffrey in Tennessee and their move to Mt. Zion in 1867, they came to Bethany six months later. They had six children. Mary Grace was the first wife of Warren Wilkinson.

When Dr. Pyatt arrived in Bethany, he had to borrow money to pay for the medicine. By practicing economy, he later owned 900 acres near Bethany and he left a \$100,000 estate. His residence, later to become the home of Paul and June Ekiss, was considered the finest in Moultrie County at the time.



Josie Norton, pictured in upper right hand corner, was a member of Bethany's most prominent black family.

One of Bethany's most respected citizens was one of the village's two black families. Ely Norton, born in 1833, a Civil War veteran, was the first barber in town. He also served on the village board.

Ely loved fishing and he did so nearly every day after work. He enjoyed giving neighbors some of his catches.

Ely and his wife, Fannie, had two daughters, Fannie and Josie. Ely died in 1911.

David Mitchell owned land on the east side of town, a part of which he donated to the Marrowbone Cemetery. The first person buried there was Mrs. T. H. (Mary McCord) Crowder, as well as Mr. Crowder and his second wife. So were the Nortons and their daughter, Josie Norton Gray.

Bethany's other black family was the Mose Watkins.

North of the depot was a park, where the Bethany band played weekly. East of the park was the Park Hotel, which later became the Logan Hotel. South of the station was the three-story Kendall Hotel.

The coming of the auto knocked out the Kendall Hotel in two ways. The auto lessened the need for small town hostelry.

Operated by Mr. and Mrs. Abner Kendall since the turn of the century, it was demolished in 1928 to make way for a gasoline station.

For three decades, traveling salesmen received room and board there for \$3.50 a week. And they could hire a horse and buggy from the livery stable for trips around Marrowbone township for \$1.50 a week.

The meals served there were a gastronomy delight. Many elder citizens told me of enjoying a bountiful meal there for 25 cents.

Kendall also operated a shop at the west side of the hotel, where he repaired wagons, made wooden chain-operated pumps and even turned out coffins.

Something exciting seemed always to be happening at the Kendall. Once a despondent painter, unable to find work, shot himself in his hotel room, the bullet narrowly missing a lodger in the adjoining room.

Lake Fifteen, a popular place for Bethanities before the Shelbyville dam and lake went in, is a natural spring east of Bethany. Near it is the Bone-Vaughan-Mitchell cemetery. The Mitchell Bridge, near the cemetery, was taken out in 1935 after Highway 121 was built.

Todd's Point was located in both Shelby and Moultrie Counties. It became a ghost town when the railroad passed it by. One marker at the cemetery in Moultrie County has an inscription in German.

Bethany, at the century's turn, had four doctors, and all were kept busy. Besides Dr. Pyatt, there were Dr. Davis, J. H. Vadakin and Dr. Miller Hamilton.

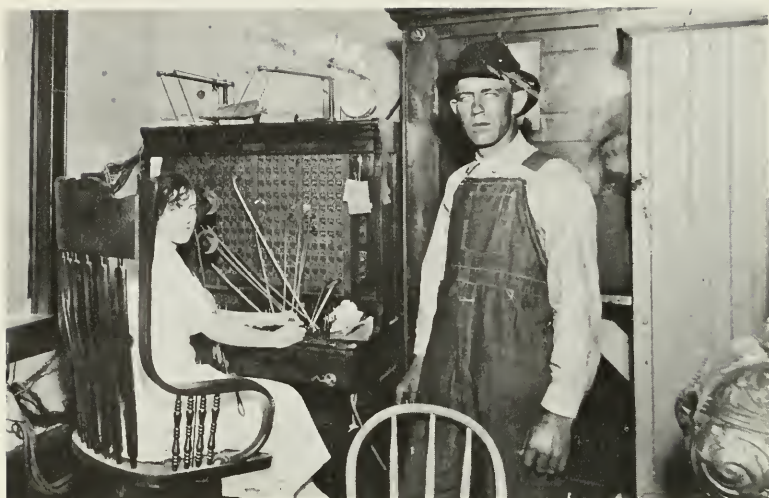
Dr. C. R. Lawrence was the first dentist to open office in Bethany shortly after the century dawned. Then came Dr. H. W. Waters in the 1920s, who practiced for more than 20 years, and he also played in the band.

Today Bethany has no dentist.

When Alexander Graham Bell's telephone patents expired in 1894, new telephone companies sprang up all over the nation, making long-distance calls a farcical operation.

Bethany had "centrals" before the 20th Century was far along, and they doubtless knew more gossip than anyone else in town.

But the first telephone in Bethany was a homemade one — installed in 1897.



Early switchboard in Bethany. Bill Reining is the repairman.

W. H. Logan, who owned a general store, was an inventive genius.

His mother-in-law, Mrs. Thomas H. Crowder, who lived a mile north of town, along the railroad tracks, was seriously ill. To keep in touch with her, Logan used the barbed wire fence along the way and had a phone at both his store and Mrs. Crowder's home, according to Mrs. Raymond Scheer.

Although expected to die shortly, Mrs. Crowder was seen washing out her bed sheets and nightgown in the front yard so as to look presentable when she passed on.

Shortly after, telephone poles began to rise in Bethany connected by wires. And it was a bell-ringing system.

Thomas H. Crowder, Mrs. Scheer points out, was the great grandfather of Mrs. Ward (Mary Davisson) Thomas, who was the Bethany telephone operator when it went out of business in 1965, for the town was then on the dial system and needed no local operator.

So Mary was transferred to Sullivan's office, where she worked for a few years.

In the early days, the operator was Goldie Thomas, who operated on a high-back, swivel chair, and for years, Bill Reining, clad in overalls, served as the repair man. He was always on call in case one phone was out of order.

Edith Cordray started her career as central in 1917, when she was paid 17 cents an hour.

"Telephone batteries were then only \$18 a barrel and they came in by freight," said Mrs. Cordray.

Mrs. Raymond Scheer's grandmother was known as Aunt Camilla to everyone in Bethany, and it took no telephone call to get her out of her house. She made a career of visiting all the sick people in Bethany to cheer them up.

The Wilkinson Bros., dealers in lumber, tile and coal, established their business in Bethany in 1882. Members of the firm were four brothers, Jasper, John J., Warren A. and William, all natives of Vinter County, Ohio. They were sons of Jacob and May Wilkinson. Later, Porter Wilkinson took the business over and it endured until 1971.

Horses were the only means of transportation between 1880 and 1900. There was even a stagecoach line running from Paris-to-Springfield.

J. P. McCord was a most busy blacksmith for 50 years, and youngsters enjoyed watching him work with anvil and forge. Hitching posts arose at every store in town.



W. P. McGuire

The first big store building in Bethany was put up by W. P. (Uncle Billy) McGuire. It was a general store, which also served as a postoffice. The first drug store was built by James W. Bone and Dr. George W. Hudson.

The cost of living was much lower shortly after the turn of the century. But so was a man's pay. One dollar a day was considered high pay. The section men on the railroad were paid 90 cents a day, and they often worked 10 hours or longer. P. Jack Bushert, father of Jim Bushert, carried water to the men working on the railroad near Bethany.

Coal cost only \$1.90 a ton, including delivery. Country butter was considered high at 15 cents a pound. A 50-pound sack of flour cost 98 cents. It wasn't unusual for a grocer, or doctor or barber to receive his pay in farm produce.

J. W. (Mac) Mahan, Bethany's depot agent from 1901 until his death May 25, 1925, was the first person to own a car in Bethany. His wife had to get out and help hold horses when they met on a road.

Dr. Vadakin bought a Buick in 1902, from John Weidner, who had just taken over as Buick's dealer in Bethany. Shortly after, A. R. Scott bought a Stanley Steamer.

Jack Sample secured a Jackson the same year, but he had to call Alva Armstrong to jack up one wheel to get it started.

By 1910, autos were common in Bethany. Troy Scott in 1909 had the dealership for the Moline auto, and soon after added the Overland to his line. Later, he drove nothing but a Haynes.

Kent Williamson had a Lexington agency in Bethany in 1913-14-15. He had two fine sons, Kent and Joel, now living in Sun City, Phoenix, Ariz., and a daughter, Betty, married and living in Decatur.

In 1912, Bethany became known as the state egg basket, when stores handled 15,000 dozen of eggs in a short period.

The Vadakin Opera House had a barber shop and bathroom in the basement. J. L. Riggin was the owner, assisted by Jack Adam.

West of the Marrowbone County Bridge is the location of the Norris-Pesch Devils' Lane. In the early days, the two land owners disagreed on the boundary line and each built a fence. The space between the two fences was known as Devil's Lane.

Freeland's Point had a store and a shop. The "Buffalo Wallow," was a part of the Warren Ferguson farm, which

later became the Joe Roney farm.

Even on Jan. 1, 1900, Bethany had a population of 800. Business houses then included the Echo office, located over the Hudson Bros. Clothing Store; Hogg Bakery, Scott State Bank, post office, a millinery store, a restaurant and the Wilkinson Lumber yard.

Ed and Albert Biely had a photographic studio, and Charles Roney and Dave Lindsey an implement business. The two livery stables were the busiest places in town. They rented out riding horses and horse-drawn vehicles, as well as caring for horses that farmers drove into town. The streets were always alive with buggies, surreys and wagons.

Shortly after, L. O. St. John opened a jewelry store, which he operated more than three decades. And Kivet Starr had a small lunch counter. From 1900 to 1935, Charles and Joe Dedman ran a meat market, which became Cordt's Meat Market in 1935.

I remember Dedman's well. Every morning before school I was sent to the meat market and to Will Bone's to pick up a bucket of milk.

Since the meat orders varied little from day-to-day, I often bought meat for two days in two packages, hiding one behind the hedge near Bone's house, to be picked up the next day, thus to save a trip.

It was winter so the meat wouldn't spoil. However, the practice ended after some animal discovered and devoured my hidden package.

On Nov. 21, 1908, a large, new grocery store was opened by W. R. Stables and Claude Harris. Stables later bought out his partner. He was assisted in the operation of the store by his son, Dutch, a fine high school athlete in the 1920s. Although engaged in farming, Dutch has never lost his interest in sports, and is one of the University of Illinois' most frenetic fans.

Stables operated the grocery until 1944, when he sold out to Mike Wimmer. When Stables had the market, the farmers all came to town on Saturday night. So sometimes he would stay open until 12:30 a.m. Sunday to accommodate them.

And C. B. Smith operated his drug store for more than 30 years, first in the bank building and then in the Vadakin building on the southeast corner of the intersection of the downtown streets.

Even more enduring was the Bethany Grain Co., which has been in business since early in the century. Stockyards stood near the railroad tracks until they were torn down in 1939.

Walter and Lute Hudson opened a large men's clothing store in 1917. Then it was known as Hudsons' Bros. It became just Hudson's after Walter left for a YMCA job at Nelsonville, Ohio.

T. L. (Lute) Hudson, tall and lanky, was both a good golfer and tennis player. He was a member of Bethany High School's board from 1918 to 1931 and he also put in 25 years on the board of the Presbyterian Church. For many years, he and T. A. Scott, president of the Scott State Bank, played golf several times a week at the Sullivan Country Club. T. L. also served as scoutmaster.

After T. L. Hudson died July 6, 1936, his son, Marvin, operated the store with the help of his brother, Tom, who died shortly after, until it was sold in 1951 to Herman Garrett. He closed it in 1965.

Bethany in those days had two jolly women in Fannie Younger and Della Hull. With the first bow to Women's Lib, Fannie became the first woman named to the Marrow-bone Grand Jury in 1941.

Della was prominent in Republican politics, entertainment, and you never caught her without a smile on her chubby face. But no one could push her around.

In the early 1930s, Della opened a restaurant in downtown Bethany, and I recall winning a prize for naming it.

But the big news came later. In those days, outdoor toilets were behind each store building. They were unsightly, and businessmen in 1931 decided to tear them down. All agreed, except Della. All others were demolished, but Della held firm and won her court fight.

In May, 1917, Bethany was hit by a tornado and hail storm. Not a house or building in the town escaped without some damage.

Prior to 1920 the only fire protection was the old bucket brigade. That year Bethany bought its first fire truck.

The first bus line was started through Bethany in 1932. Today the bus stops only at the highway running through the north end of town.

Another great step forward for Bethany came in 1935 when the water tank was filled and ready. And in 1940, a

water softener was put into use.

The passenger train on the Illinois Central Railroad made its last regular run through Bethany in March, 1939, a victim of the motor car. For years, the train had brought mail into Bethany. But from then on, it has come by truck or car on the Star Mail Route.

Dr. Hamilton came to Bethany in 1901, and in 1914 he sold his practice to Dr. R. C. Coffey, who retired early in the 1950s, after serving Bethany so well as its only physician.

During the flu epidemic of 1918, he worked day and night, caring for the ill. Some weeks, he only got a few hours of sleep.

In 1911, sewer tiles were put down under Main Street to a depth of 12 feet. This ended the puddles that often formed in the street, as well as the mud holes.

In 1915, the Bethany Town Board decided it needed better streets. So all the roads were oiled.

P. J. Bushert, Marrowbone road commissioner, also kept the township roads well oiled, and visitors said they were the best dirt highways they had ever traveled.

Around the 1910 era, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Brown ran a shoe repair shop on Main Street. He was deaf and blind. Mrs. Brown could see but could not hear. But they certainly were skillful when it came to repairing shoes.

Bethany has never had a Good Humor Ice Cream Man, such as operated on city streets. But, before the days of the refrigerator, many icemen made calls at Bethany's homes, first by horse-drawn wagons, later in trucks. The housewife was provided with cards, the corners of which were labeled 25, 50, 75 or 100. Whichever weight the lady wanted was hung on the topline of the door.

Kids on bicycles or foot would follow the iceman around to eat the shavings when he chipped the ice to the desired size.

In 1900, there was a large hardware store, owned by Sylvester Armstrong, father of Alma Armstrong, who later had his own hardware business.

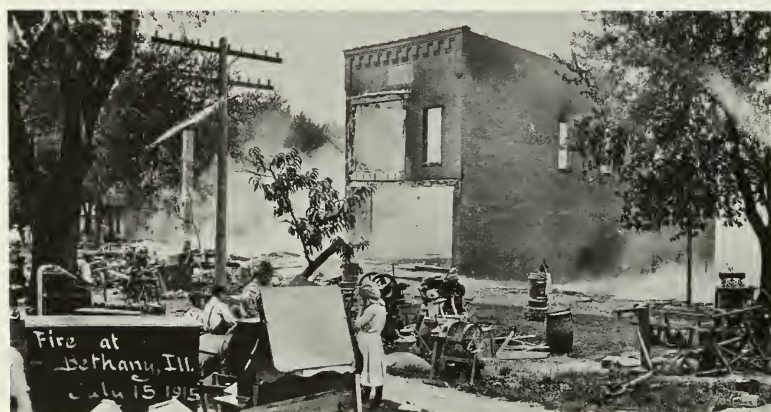
In those early days, most households had fireplaces, which helped heat the house. Wood or coal stoves were also used.

Candles still were used to light some homes in 1900. But they were soon replaced by kerosene lamps. The only street



Interior of Armstrong Brothers Hardware. Ma and Pa Armstrong at front table with Alvah and Maude Armstrong at back table.

lights were located on posts and were coal oil lamps. The village policeman carried a ladder around to climb up to light them at night.



Destructive fire of 1915.

One of the most destructive fires in Bethany came in 1915, when eight buildings were leveled. They were the McKinney Blacksmith Shop, where the fire started, the monument shop, Armstrong & Sons Implement Store, the poultry house, Wilkinson's planning mill, a buggy and paint shop. All were located in the block west of Punch Brown's Garage.

Many businessmen have done interesting things for Bethany.

For years, each December, Lew Davis would place a barrel of peanuts in his garage office. They were free to all customers to eat, as long as they left the shells on the floor.

Punch Brown, who has been in the garage business for more than 40 years, and who bought out Davis, has continued the practice.

And, when Joe Garrett was the depot agent before it was closed, he always played Santa Claus for anyone who wanted his service.

When Snap Blanchard operated a restaurant in the Depression Years of the 1930s, he would let the high school teachers use his car.

Ken Blackenship, who bought out Blanchard, had a parrot who kept yelling for Nelly, Ken's wife.

Gurly Graham had the best restaurant ever in Bethany, offering only quality dishes, but it didn't last very long.

Bethany had an active Boy Scout Troop when the Rev. Howard Osborn, the Methodist minister, presided over it in the 1920-30 era, when the Scouts camped each summer at Robert Faries, near Lake Decatur.

In 1975, there was no longer Boy Scouts in Bethany, but there were active Girl Scout and Cub Scout groups.

The most active youth group in Bethany in 1975 was the Marrowbone Merrymakers, a collection of 30 girls, who are the counterpart of the boys' 4-H Club.

Competing in sewing, home economics, etc., they are the best in the county each year. But, since winners can't repeat, the Marrowbone Merrymakers have won on alternate years for the past two decades. Glenn Austin, the peppercod of the Scott State Bank, has two daughters who spark the organization.

Bethany has had few farout characters, but one was Wes Love, a bearded fiddler, who lived in the country.



Town character - Wes Love - forerunner to Wayne Lowe.

In the 1925-1940 period, he would come into town to fiddle and, outspoken, he often was beaten up by the young men loafing downtown.

During the 1920-1940 period, Hunter Moody maintained the Moody Airport at his family farm in Marrowbone Township. Many Bethany residents took their first flight in Moody's plane. He also served businessmen who wanted a fast trip to Chicago or some other city.

Snow has been little trouble to Bethany in the 20th Century.

But it was engulfed by a snowstorm in February, 1914. It started snowing early one morning, and the flakes con-

tinued to bombard the town for three days. Huge drifts six feet deep blanketed the community.

Nobody could budge from his home, and stores and schools were closed, nor could rural mail carriers make their appointed rounds. A freight train was stalled for two days south of Bethany, and the village was without train service for three days.

Snow removal equipment was not available but, luckily, the thaw came fast.

Many Bethany men wanted to be their own boss and to work outdoors. For example, Lyman Manship was a house painter, who worked from 1920 into the 1950s.

There were so many good-hearted women in Bethany, who, though perhaps short of funds, filled their houses with happiness.

Of course, the one I remember best was my late Aunt Emma Hill, with whom I often stayed as a boy. While of little means, her heart was brimming with love, and there was nothing she wouldn't do for me.

She was visited at times by her sister, Cord Bankson, who spun tales of the beauty of the city Berkeley, in California.

I never dreamed at the time I would be spending most of my life in Berkeley, thanks to the late George Dunscomb, the former owner of the Berkeley Gazette, whose brother, Jobey Dunscomb, was a longtime coach at Windsor, Ill.

Chapter 7

Hidden Success Stories

Although Bethany's population has increased, the business district has diminished.

However, there are a few big businesses in Bethany that a visitor would scarcely be aware of, including Hollis Dick's, a huge transportation service, hidden away in a big lot in the southeast part of town, and the John Deere plant on the highway northwest of town.

Hollis A. Dick, a husky blond, operates 31 huge trailers, including tank carriers for hauling oil, with the aid of 12 employees.

In 1974, Dick's rigs traveled 677,000 miles. Most of the hauling is in Illinois, although he does hit 16 Midwestern and Eastern states with such loads as fertilizer and auto parts.

The business acutally started in 1925 when Homer Keown began hauling cattle. In 1941, he was hired by the Shipping Association of Bethany, operated by Charley Ekiss.

Keown quit in 1937 to drive a school bus. A stickler for keeping his bus clean, he would put in 26 years at this job and his wife, Vera, 31 years.

In 1937, Hollis O. Dick, a Bethany High athlete, borrowed \$700 from the Scott State Bank with which to buy a truck. Gradually he expanded his business.

Following his death in March, 1955, he was succeeded by his son, Hollis A. Dick, who also is known as Steve, who had cut his teeth on the steering wheel.

As the cattle business faded, Steve went heavily into edible oil, which he carried in tank cars, and other commodities.

Dick is helped in his bookkeeping by his wife, Barbara, whom he married June 27, 1962. They have a daughter, Marcia. Dick prepared himself for the job in a business course at the University of Tennessee.

The John Deere plant is operated by F. H. Bland & Sons. F. H. Bland came to Bethany in October, 1940 from Marshall County, to open the Deere sales agency with Clyde Brown, after they had bought out B. A. Reynolds.

It was Bland & Brown until September, 1942, when Brown quit to go into farming.

F. H. Bland has now retired but his wife, Erma, who has a brilliant mind, remains the bookkeeper.

The business in 1975 was operated by C. L. Bland and Dale Bland, sons of F. H. Bland, and Charles Alan Bland, C. L.'s son.

An extremely busy place, the Blands do a million dollar business a year. They have a big parts department, and all employees are skilled mechanics who have studied at the factory at Moline, Ill.

They also operate a Cessna 185 Skylane. If a farmer needs a part for his equipment right away, the Blands will fly to Moline and get it for him in a few hours.

Big farmers also are flown over their vast acreage by the Blands so they can inspect their crops.

The Blands have eight employees, and they have a large trade area that includes such towns as Arthur, Mattoon, Shelbyville, Assumption and Monticello.

The Blands also own the Goodyear building in downtown Bethany, which they lease out.

All are outdoorsmen who like to camp in the wilderness to fish and enjoy nature.

Bethany also has many fine builders.

Hubert Flannell, who works for the Pittsburg Plate Glass Co. in Mt. Zion, is putting in the Redbird Hill development, east of Bethany, which will have 60 homes. He has been a stone mason for 15 years.

Hubert's wife, Norma, works for the Scott State Bank, and they have a son, Dan, a law student at the University of Illinois.

Dick Brown is another young builder who built such mansions as the Junior Younger home, as well as several elegant houses in Sullivan.

Mark Wheeler is Bethany's biggest builder. He has put

up 50 homes in Bethany, as well as the new high school building.

A longtime mayor of Bethany, he led the city into ownership of its own gas, electricity and water supply.

An astute contractor and builder, Mark is in demand all over the state. In the summer of 1975, he was putting in a big Boy Scout building in Pana, Ill.

One of Mark's sons, Tom, is public defender for Moultrie County. He has two other sons, Jackson and Randy, and two daughters, Patricia and Shirley.

Another prominent establishment is the L. W. McMullan Funeral home in downtown Bethany. McMullan purchased the business from Bob and Dorothy Tohill in 1968. McMullan long has operated in Sullivan.

Carl Crowder for three decades had been the wheel that made Bethany go. He was the most active in the county in Republican politics. He served as postmaster under four presidents: Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Dwight Eisenhower. He also operated a successful insurance business. But Carl was suffering emphysema in the summer of 1975 and had to be hospitalized.

Many of my questions of early Bethany elicited this response: "Better see Carl Crowder." But Carl couldn't talk. He died a few months after I left Bethany, Sept. 16, 1975.

Carl was lucky to have peppery Mrs. Mike Wimmer carrying on his insurance business for him.

The late George Fulk of Bethany rates as an authority on international affairs.

A highly educated man, he attended all the world peace conferences and wrote several books on world politics.

His mind was always on world problems and their solution. Though he owned a large farm, he knew nothing of farming.

One warm August day in the early 1930s, his wife, Cora, who now lives in Decatur, had been ill and unable to prepare lunch for five threshers. So she asked him to drive them into Bethany for lunch.

Fulk knew nothing of cars, either. His old car then had both an accelerator on the floor, as well as one on the steering wheel. George adjusted the speed for 25 m.p.h. and started driving the laborers into town.

George Bone, sitting next to Fulk, began to put his foot down on the floor accelerator. The car started going faster and faster.

Panic gripped Fulk. He broke out in a sweat as he tried to control his auto. Finally he yelled out: "Bail out, boys! I've lost control of the car!"

Chapter 8

The Sparkle of Senior Citizens

Bethany has many senior citizens who are as bright and as articulate and who remember clearly how Bethany was in the early days. Although they are in their 80s and 90s, they remain quite active.



Author Jim Scott, left, chats with Raymond Scheer about early Bethany history.

Raymond and Millie Scheer, both in their mid-80s, continue as sharp and as interesting as they were 40 years ago, when Raymond was a high school principal and top musician. Their memories are so keen, they provided me with much of the early-day Bethany in this book.

O. E. Wheeler is a ring-tailed marvel, still a carpenter and craftsman at the age of 93, in 1975.

Since I didn't know where he lived, Mary Scott drove me to his workshop.



O.E. Wheeler

As we approached, O. E. remarked to Mary: "I thought you were dead!"

"Why?" replied Mary.

"Because I haven't seen you in a long time."

Then Mary introduced me.

"Say, you were supposed to be skinny," remarked O.E.

O.E. still works daily in his shop, repairing the furniture and building chests of drawers, desks and other household needs of the housewives of Bethany.

He also turns out beautiful works of art, using different colored woods.

Wheeler did a facsimile of Dwight Eisenhower's barn, which he sent to him before he died. And he received a congratulatory letter from Ike.

O. E. also did a likeness of the Last Supper. He used wood from all over the world to create a picture depicting the realistic characteristics of the age-old story. He bought various woods from such nations as Burma and Australia, as well as several countries in Africa.

And he did a portrait of Christ in the Garden for the Free Methodist Church in Bethany.

Mrs. Scott left after the introduction and soon O. E.'s friend, Diamond Tipsword, entered. She asked "O. E. did you find the file you lost?"

"No," he replied. "But I made me another one. Here it is."

In the 1920s, Wheeler purchased a suit of clothes from the Hudson Bros., a long-closed men's shop in Bethany.

He was soon too big for it so he kept it in his closet.

"I shrank in recent years," he related. "So I put it on and wore it to church last Sunday."

He chuckled.

"Several people congratulated me on my new suit."

O. E. taught carpentry to his son, Mark, and several of his grandsons.

When Wheeler was younger, he built 52 homes in Oklahoma City, 16 in Bethany and 12 in Decatur, Ill.

Wheeler never misses a church service on Sunday, but he was not enthusiastic over religion as a youngster.

One Sunday, when he was 10, he asked his mother if he could get his friend, Earl Smith, to go to church with him.

"All right," replied his mother, "but hurry back."

While at the Smith home, Earl took O. E. down the road to enjoy a new plant called garlic.

When they returned home, his mother was overcome by the smell.

Thinking it was a trick to escape going to church, she made O. E. stay home all day.

Wheeler has worked with wood most of his life, beginning at the age of 13, when he helped his father build a house in Greenville, Ill.

After working many years as a contractor, he later took up cabinet making and then turned to artistic work.

In the Bethany area, his wooden compote type bowls are familiar to everyone, and he is kept busy with orders, although he finds it impossible to keep up with all the demands on his time. Sometimes, sadly, he must say "No."

He recently did a blind man's checkerboard. In it, half of the squares are raised for the choice of black or red tiles. He also has turned out many conventional checkerboards.

His shop is a large one-room building filled with many power tools and various woods, plus many unfinished pro-

jects he is working on. It also contains a pot-bellied stove, used in winter.

Wheeler, mentioning toward a lathe, warned of its danger if not handled properly. He displayed one hand that had parts of two fingers missing.

"I know because this is what happened to me," he said. "Worse, when it happened, the doctor was out of town."

O. E. Wheeler opens his shop by 7 a.m. daily and works till darkness intervenes. He also toils there on Sunday afternoons.

Jennie Collier, who left Bethany in 1918 and returned in 1939, has led a most interesting life — and she was still enjoying it at the age of 84 in 1975.

One of her early memories of Bethany is the black encampment in the woods north of Bethany between 1890 and 1900.

"They would sing beautiful Negro spirituals," she recalled. "I knew many of them for they would come to our house for drinking water. Many townspeople attended the meeting, for they were charged only 10 cents."

When her late sister, Blanche, and Jennie were in a ship headed for Europe in 1927, Charles Lindberg passed overhead in his historic flight.

Blanche and Jennie were attending Harvard Medical School in 1931, when they were offered a chance to go to Java to study the wood-feeding roaches. They, of course, accepted.

In World War I, Jennie served as a physical therapist.

She attended the University of Illinois Academy, the last year it operated in 1917. Her, parents, William and Louise Collier, died in 1917.

Jennie remembered well the wonderful potluck dinners in the Logan Department store in Bethany when she was a girl, and Logan also had a big millinery department.

She also recalled eating at the Logan Hotel, which ran from 1880 to 1910.

"When I attended grace school in Bethany," she said, "there was a creek running across the yard, crossed by a wooden bridge. We skated on the river in winter. And there also was a swinging bridge west of town. We girls would go there in the spring to gather flowers and in the fall to pick up nuts.

"I also remember chewing part of the red elm tree. We took off the bark with a butcher knife. It was good for cleaning the teeth.

"In the early 1900s, we had a chautauqua every summer. And a circus also stopped nearly every summer, preceded by a parade down Main Street.

"Our commencement from high school was held in the Vadakin Opera House.

"Around 1915, we had big roller skating rink, under a tent in Bethany.



1909 Graduation Class, Bethany High School.

Front, left to right: Gertrude Stradley, Margaret McGuire, Eva Ward, March Crowder, Jennie Collier, Osa Mode.

Back row: Amy Crowder, Roby McAmos, Web Rose, Fred Lytle, Harry Stables, Ancil Livesey.

Jennie is a small lady of culture, soft-spoken and with complete recall of early-day Bethany. She lives alone in a houseful of glowing memories of travels with her two late sisters.

Her home, in the north section of Bethany, is most interesting. Near the entrance is a chest, made from her childhood piano.

Miss Collier also is much impressed by Wheeler. And she's a little sad that one of his creations is long gone. That would be his eight-sided barn he built in 1912 on the Bone farm east of Bethany. One eighth was a crib, the other seven sections were stalls for two horses each.

But one beautiful barn remains on the Foster farm, east of Bethany. It was built by Millard Livesey before the turn of the century. It has a rounded archway leading into the basement floor.

And Mrs. Dewey (Marjorie Hogg) Low, though faint of vision and in her 70s, has attracted national attention on her work of art.

Majorie started out making rugs. Then she included 12 original ideas, such as flower baskets, placemats, potted plant covers, belts, etc.

She incorporates such things as bread wrappers for making her flowers and for macrame for hanging pots.

She has been so successful that she has been offered jobs in the East, and a class in Brooklyn is using her ideas.

Mrs. Low told Ruth Suddarth, during an interview for the Echo, that she is never bored and, despite the fact her eyesight is quite blurred, she still does some drawings and paintings.

And her husband, peppery Dewey, keeps busy keeping the house in shape.

Chapter 9

A. R. Scott's State Bank

A. R. Scott, who founded the Scott State Bank in Bethany, provided financing in its early days that helped develop the town into a fine agriculture community.

A. R.'s Grandfather was James Scott, who brought his family from Tennessee to Mt. Zion in 1824 and to a farm near Bethany in 1853.

Before coming to Illinois, James had freed his 20 slaves, giving each of them his choice of a homesite.

In those early days, judges were rough on thieves. One judge, a friend of James Scott, ordered a thief to be whipped 40 lashes on his bare back and the other at the same time for 30 lashes. Each also was fined \$100 and imprisoned three months.

Many of the Marrow-bone Township citizens suffered excruciatingly in those days, including the Milton Scott family, an uncle of A. R. Scott. In 1863, the family was nearly fatally poisoned when Milton's two youngest children emptied rat poison into the meat barrel. The other five members of the family became critically ill but the perpetrators did not eat it. The rest recovered but suffered from the ill effects of the poison for the rest of their lives, an old clipping claims.*



A. R. Scott

Alfred R. Scott was born in Mt. Zion June 27, 1845. He was 6 years old when his family moved to a log cabin near Bethany. He was educated at the Mt. Zion Academy, one of the best schools in the Midwest at that time.

Scott married Mary J. Smith Sept. 8, 1868. He taught school for two years. In 1870, W. P. McGuire started a store building in Bethany, and Scott purchased it before it was finished.

This was before the railroad came to Bethany, and travel was horrendous. After Scott opened his store, a big snow-fall hit, and he promptly sold all his boots.

The Peoria-Decatur-Evansville Railroad was built through Bethany in 1872 and, shortly after, A. R. became the agent at the depot, one of his numerous jobs.

Sarah Rankin, whose family was first to settle in Illinois, came to Bethany in 1821 to support herself by the tailor's trade. She later taught her daughter, Amanda, who was soon making suits for all the men in town. She made two suits for O. M. Scott before he entered Lincoln College.

An account book of hers was found showing her work for Philo Hale in 1840. She was paid \$1 for the pantaloons and \$1.50 for the overcoat. When Amanda was a young girl, she said she wished to marry Milton Scott and that her step-sister, Lunicy Fruit, would marry Frank Scott. And both did.

In 1885, you could reach Bethany only by paths through the high prairie grass. Night traveling was necessary because of the big, green flies that bit in the daytime.

Kind-hearted Amanda Scott never went to bed on a stormy night without placing a burning candle in the upstairs window as a guide for anyone who might be lost in the prairie.

She never turned down a hungry tramp who knocked at her door, and sometimes kept them overnight. Once, the family suffered from body-lice, picked up from an itinerant.

When Amanda Scott died in May, 1888, she was buried in Mt. Zion.

A fearful storm was spied coming in from the southwest. The hearse-driver whipped his team into a fast trot to get the body there before the storm broke.

The minister, Rev. James Hogg, coming from Bethany, was delayed by the storm. After waiting for an hour, the funeral director took the body to the cemetery and buried it. After the burial, the Rev. Mr. Hogg arrived, and he proceeded with the funeral service.

A grist and saw mill was operated by John Heiland, and Scott bought it and hired Tom Clark to run it for him.

It proved such a success that A. R. decided to build a larger mill near the railroad track. It was finished in 1882 at a cost of \$25,000.

Shortly after, many large flour mills were going up in the northern states, where wheat could be bought at a low cost, making it difficult for the small mills to make money. When Scott's large mill was completed, the smaller grist mill was abandoned and the saw mill sold to W. D. Fortner.

At this time, A. R. Scott was in business with his brother, A. W. Scott, in a large general store. He had several other jobs. In 1870, he was appointed as Bethany's postmaster.

A. R. had an iron safe in his mill, and a number of his customers would leave their money in it.

It was then that Alfred realized Bethany needed a bank so he proceeded to open one.

He called it the Exchange Bank when it was opened in 1887. Alfred engaged Smith Walker, a Bethany boy working in a Decatur bank, as his cashier.

The banking business was conducted in the mill office while the bank building on Main Street was being built in 1898.

Shortly after, the name was changed to Scott State Bank.

The structure Scott had built for the flour mill proved unsuitable for handling corn and small grain so he purchased the elevator building. It was operated by Scott and T. L. Bone, Scott later purchasing Bone's interest.

Scott and S. M. McReynolds were partners in buying livestock and grain and shipping them from Bethany.

They would start out early in the morning in a horse and buggy. Scott would take a wad of big bills with him, and he would be gone all day. He would pay cash for the cattle and grain on the spot, which pleased the farmers. Often, he would buy 15,000 bushels of corn in one day.

But soon the banking business began requiring much more of his time. Regretfully, Scott sold his elevator to the Bethany Grain Co.

Still, he couldn't get the grain market off his mind. Every day he visited the elevator, for the price of grain



A.R. Scott & Company, later Bethany Grain Company.

meant so much to the farmers with whom he did business.

The Scott State Bank was so successful that it attracted competition from another bank, Bethany State Bank, founded by Bob Noble.

It folded in July, 1918, much to the distress of its depositors.

O. E. Wheeler had built a barn for Noble, which burned down. He was working on a second barn in the summer of 1918, when he received a call saying that the bank had folded and to stop work. "I lost \$75 when it folded," commented O.E.

But Aaron DeBruler had the worst experience. He had just sold a high-priced car and now he was in the bank to deposit his check.

The clerk said: "Better keep your money."

"But I want to deposit it," replied DeBruler. "I don't like to carry that much with me."

"Oh, no," said the clerk. "You'd be better off to keep it."

Back and forth went the exchange, and, finally, the clerk agreed to take the deposit.

As DeBruler left the bank, the man opened the door and said, "Goodby, this bank is out of business."

Later, the bank paid out 25 cents on each dollar.

Meantime, the Scott State Bank continued to grow. And, in 1919, A. R. built a block long, two-story brick building. It was to have many tenants on the first floor, including the C. B. Smith Drug store and the post office. And for 20 years, H. W. Watters operated a dentist office over the bank.

Scott was a builder, always looking to the future of the community. There are hundreds of men in Marrowbone Township who say that they owe all they have to Scott who pushed them onward and upward with his own resources.

A sedate but friendly man, he was always prodding others to do better. Nothing ever rattled him, nothing distressed him.

If a young man was working on a farm for someone else and who seemed industrious and eager, Scott would call him into his office and ask why he did not start farming for himself.

The reply always was the youngster had no money.

Then A. R. would add: "I'll take care of the financing."

If the young man then did well in farming for himself and saved some money, he again would be summoned by A. R.

This time he would tell him of a farm that was going to be sold and could be bought at a fair price.

"Why don't you buy it?" the banker would ask.

Again the reply: "I don't have the money."

"I will take care of that," countered A. R.

A. R. Scott's influence was felt in financing throughout the Midwest.

Once a Bethany man who had been shipping livestock attended a meeting in Indianapolis. A stranger approached him and asked if he wasn't from Bethany. When he said he was, the man began to praise A. R. Scott.

"Years ago I was a clerk in a commission house in Indianapolis," he related. "We were handling livestock from Scott & McReynolds of Bethany.

"One day Scott asked me why I did not get into business for myself. He said he would ship his stock to me and influence others to do so. I told him I had no money. Scott replied he would provide it. So I made the plunge. And I was successful."

The man later became a director of the largest bank in Indianapolis.

"If it weren't for your A. R. Scott, I would still be a clerk in a commission house," he added.

A. R. never mentioned the help he gave others. Always the information came from those he helped.

Scott became a member of the Bethany Presbyterian Church, Bethany Masonic Lodge and a member of the board of Millikin University.

A. R. and Mary had four sons and four daughters: Hugh, S. J. (Jay), Smith and Troy, all of Bethany; Mrs. Russell Camp and Mrs. A. L. Wilkinson, both of Bement; Dr. Augusta Scott of New York City and Mrs. A. L. Wilkinson of Bethany. All were dead by the time this book was written.

Carl Mathias and Hugh Younger worked in the Scott State Bank in the early days. Troy Scott joined the bank in 1900, Smith in 1908, and Jay in 1913. Hugh Scott lived for eight years in Alabama and later joined the bank.

For years, A. R. Scott lived in a big house across the street from the Bethany Grade School.

Smith still lived with his father until he was married. Slim as a hitching post, Smith had his neckties tied from the light fixture in the ceiling of his bedroom, so that he could pull the switch after he had retired for the night.

He loved children and always carried a supply of Beechnut chewing gum to give them. After he left, Hugh and Sadie Scott, Hugh's former school teacher, kept house for him, and their son Sport was always in action.

Mrs. Scheer and others recall seeing A. R. Scott walking to his home at noon, always lost in thought. His head would be down, his hands clasped behind his back.

At family reunions, he always brought a box of Hershey bars to distribute to the children.

In his later years, he would play solitaire after his noon meal. Gradually, his head would sink and soon he would be asleep. He would sleep for about an hour and then would wake up and return to the bank.

An Eagle Scout, Sport was always into something, usually the frozen confection in his mother's new refrigerator. Our grandfather, A. R., was in his 70s when Sport built a tennis court in the backyard, and he had A. R. out on the court, hitting the ball when it came close to him.

A. R. became careless in his personal habits in his old age. Once I was driving him to the bank in winter. He chewed tobacco. Since it was winter, the windows were closed. He spat tobacco juice out of the window, which he thought was open but which wasn't.

The big house of A. R. Scott burned to the ground in February, 1929. As the flames shot high into the still air, A. R. leaned against a tree in the front yard and philosophically watched it being destroyed.

He then moved into the home of his daughter, Ida Wilkinson, on the same block. Later, after retiring, he moved to Bement to live with another daughter, Marie Camp.

A. R. Scott died at the age of 90, Nov. 8, 1935, in the Decatur & Macon County Hospital. He had fallen and broken his hip a few days before. Death was caused by pneumonia, which stemmed from the injury.

The Nov. 15, 1935 Bethany Echo, carrying the article of A. R. Scott's death, had another story on the first page telling of the marriage in Divernon, Ill., of Mary Florence Weidner and Joe Scott, who was then working for the Federal Land Bank in St. Louis.

The two events had more significance than anyone could realize at the time. By 1975, Mary Weidner Scott had controlling interest in the Scott State Bank.

After Troy Scott retired as president of the Scott State Bank in 1955, Joe Scott, son of Jay Scott, succeeded him. He was the only grandson trained in banking. Troy died July 23, 1957 and Smith Feb. 20, 1957. Hugh had died Aug. 10, 1941 and Jay, June 26, 1961.



Joe Scott

After Joe Scott died suddenly Aug. 2, 1970, Sam, Joe's son, who was in the Army, returned home to help out at the bank. He had worked in a bank in Denver, after his

graduation from college, and was familiar with the banking business. Not long afterward, he was named president of the bank.

Joe was a friendly fellow who always had a smile on his face, a joke on his lips.

A resourceful man, he had the answer for every problem. Even as a boy he could cope with any situation.

Once he had a small vegetable garden, One of Elmer McIlwain's chickens kept getting into it. So Joe took a grain of corn, threaded it with a string to which he attached a note that read: "Please keep me at home."

Joe's widow, Mary, is of the same stripe, a vivacious, happy-go-lucky woman, she looks about the same as she did in high school, aided by good facial bones. A jolly, erudite executive, she is a fine asset to the bank through her friendliness to all.

While most old Bethany business houses have long since folded, the Scott State Bank keeps growing.

Its staff in 1975 numbered: Sam Scott, president; Fred Young, trust officer and farm manager; Wilbur Lancaster, cashier; Glenn Austin, assistant cashier, and tellers Norma Flannell, Mildred Tipsword, Mary Fitzgerald, Nancy Chance, Diane Florey and Eileen Marshall. Mary Scott serves as vice-president.

Austin has become Bethany's foremost historian, the best known man in town. I have sold more than 1,000 articles to national publications and written several books, but never in my life have I received such cooperation and help as I got from Austin in the research for this book.

The Scott State Bank has always been a leader in its field. It was the first bank in Moultrie County to install a modern bookkeeping system, when it obtained the machine from Burroughs Oct. 29, 1915. And it was twice robbed.

It was first robbed late at night Dec. 30, 1902 by four men in a buggy. The jail was then located near the telephone office. The bandits tied up the night watchman, John Robertson, put a piece of coal in his mouth and gagged him. Then they blew up the safe and escaped with \$2,000. They were never captured.

I remember well the second robbery July 9, 1936. I had

become a sportswriter for the Decatur Review, and was home on week's vacation. I came in the bank shortly after it was held up, and was able to get the story into the Review that afternoon.

The two bandits escaped with \$1,350, taking cashier Hugh Scott with them. He later was dumped out. Junior Marshall and Bliss Schwartz gave chase in the Schwartz car and kept after them until Decatur police arrived on a field east of Decatur.



T.A. Scott

Troy Scott, bank president, had called Decatur police right after the holdup.

Shortly after, the two thugs, Joe L. Poole, 37, and Peter Samueloff, 40, were killed in a gun battle with police near route 132. Both were former convicts.

A. R. Scott served as bank president, 1904-1931; T. A. Scott, 1932-1954; S. J. Scott, Jr., 1955-1970; Mary W. Scott, 1971-1974; Sam Scott, 1975—

Sons of the Scott brothers and sisters have succeeded in diverse fields.

Scott Wilkinson, son of Arthur and Ida, became a prominent pediatrician in Decatur; his brother, Arthur, was an executive with Macy's in New York and a fine accountant; George Wilkinson, son of Etha and Arthur, is president of the Bement State Bank; Anna Jane Scott, daughter of Jay and Vira, and sister of Joe, became a high school teacher,

who was crippled and whose husband, Ellison Hoke, was killed when both were struck by a car. Anna Jane now lives in Bell Vista, Ark. Their younger brother, Rodney A. Scott, is chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit in Illinois.

Troy, Jr., a son of Troy and Mabel Scott, is a senior research scientist at Honeywell in Minneapolis; one of his sisters, Majorie Scott, taught at Bethany High School for 23 years and now lives in Silver Spring, Md. with her sister, Julia, who long worked for the Navy Ordinance and U.S. Agriculture Library in Washington, D. C. Their brother, Jim, today is a writer of books and magazine articles living in Berkeley, Calif.

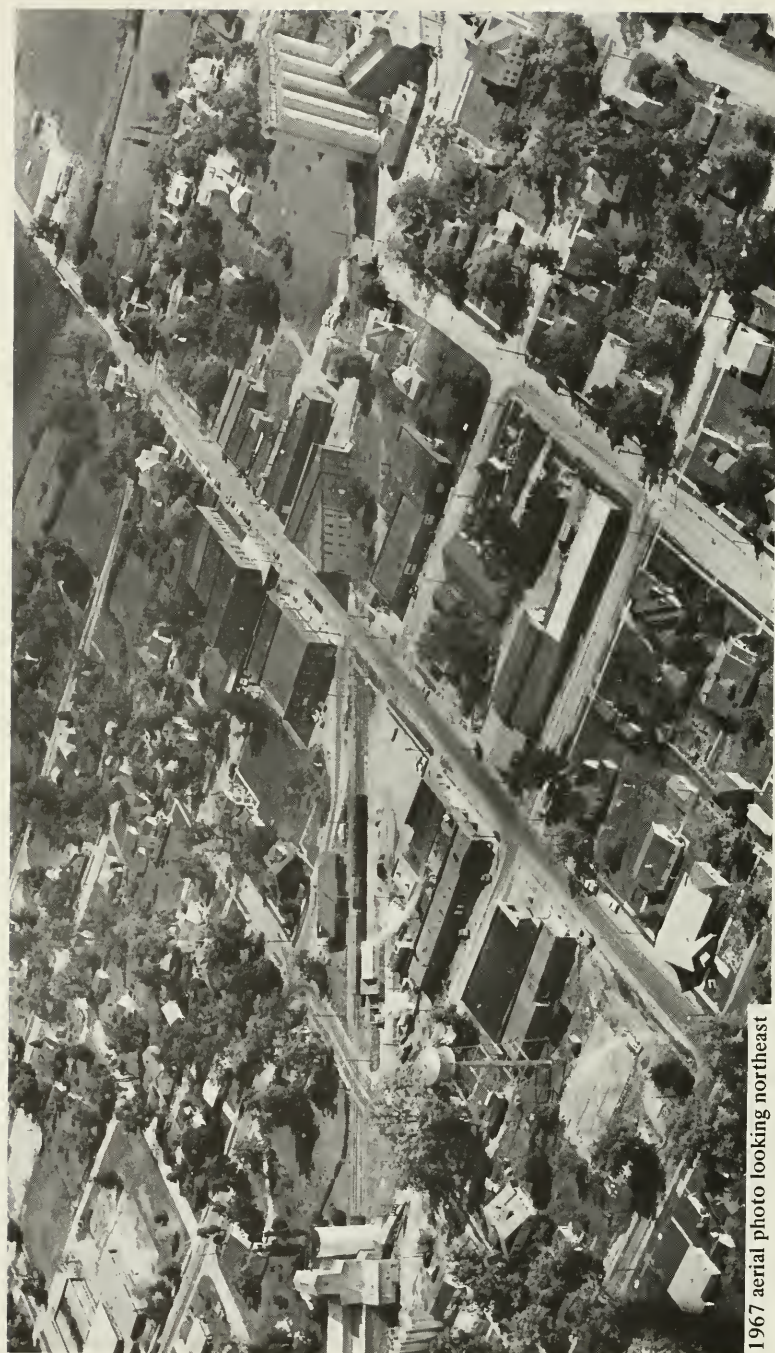
Sport, son of Hugh and Sadie, works in Southern Arizona. Smith Scott's son, John, perished in World War II.



Sam Scott

Sam Scott may be the first president of the Scott State Bank with a full appreciation of public relations.

Not only does he have one of the best young historians in the nation in Glenn Austin, but also Sam shows his own talent in his zinging explanation of bank policies in his Echo ads.



1967 aerial photo looking northeast



Main Street looking west - 1974



Main Street looking east - 1974



Willard Ray Restaurant, located "down on the levee", present location of Loretta's Beauty Shop. Willard Ray is standing with white apron.



Bethany in the early 1900's



The square about the Illinois Central Station, around 1917.



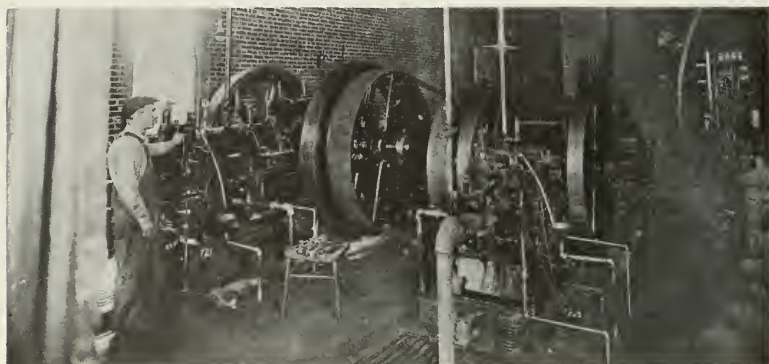
1917 view of Main Street in Bethany, Illinois, looking east



The grain elevators of Bethany, Illinois, around 1917



Main and Lincoln Streets prior to 1917



The Bethany power plant around 1917



Lincoln Street (top) and intersecting Main Street in Bethany around 1917.



The new Township High School in 1917



Bethany Public Grade School in 1917





Some leading churches of Bethany in the early 1900's

Chapter 10

1941 Grid, 1975 Cage Teams Feature BHS' Sports

Bethany High's enrollment is too small to provide the football teams with the manpower they need.

Still, Bethany was a terror in football under Ivan C. Johnson, who coached the team from 1940 through 1945 and who also served as principal.

The best years were 1941, when Bethany went 8-0 and 1942 when it was beaten only once.

The bright star of those years was Darrell Weakly, a 145-pound speedster. In 1941, Weakly scored 22 touchdowns and kicked seven extra points. He returned six punts for touchdowns on sprints of 50, 52, 60, 70, 72 and 80 yards. He once raced 102 yards for a touchdown on the kickoff, and he got off many long runs from scrimmage.

Don Bone, his teammate, says that Weakly was quite a thinker, as well. On the 102-yard run, he noticed the opposition pulled up, thinking he was bringing the ball out to the 20-yard line. Instead, Darrell turned on his full speed and raced through the tacklers for a touchdown.

One of the key games at Shelbyville was played in a driving rain.

"Coach Johnson was quite a psychologist," remembered Bone. "Before the game, the Shelbyville coach kept his boys inside to keep their uniforms dry. Meanwhile, Johnson had us falling on the ball to learn how to control it in the rain and mud.

"When the game started, we were covered with mud. But we were more than ready to play, and we know how to handle the muck. When Shelbyville fumbled, we were right on the ball. And we won, 34-0."

The school was so proud of the Mustangs' unblemished record, it decided to stage a dance for the heroes.

Lo, none of the squad turned up for it. Instead, the boys had driven over to Sullivan to see the film, "Harmon of Michigan."

"My father, Will Bone, really scolded me for this," related Don. "He said when someone honors you, it's the

height of rudeness not to appear.”

Weakly had several good college offers, but he was more interested in farming. So he married Virginia Martin of Decatur, and went into farming. And so a bright athletic career ended.

Seldom has a high school team blocked and tackled with the gusto of the 1941 Bethany aggregation. And the team was so light, averaging only 146 pounds.

Many other fine Bethany athletes figured, as did Weakly, that, after high school, it was time to start making a living at something that would last a lifetime.

Dwayne Barnes in 1950 tallied 19 touchdowns and kicked nine extra points. That year Bethany went 6-1-1.

But Barnes, Bethany's most versatile athlete ever, was even better in track. He was extremely fast, nearly always winning the 100-, 220- and 440-yard dashes. And he also long jumped and ran in the 880-yard relay team. He starred in basketball as well.

Standing 6-2 and slender, he would have made some college a track power. But, instead, he chose to become a veterinarian and, like Weakly, never competed again.



Four greats in Bethany sports. Left to right: C.E. McCaslin, Dick Martin, Dean Puyear, Darrell Weakly.

Another of Bethany's athletic legends is Dean Puyear, who was graduated in 1956. He set a record that may never be tied: Dean won 12 letters in football, basketball and track, and was outstanding in all these sports. Although only 5-10, he competed in track in field events and as a sprinter. In football, he was a fleet halfback. In high school football, he scored 41 touchdowns and gained 3,531 yards in 31 games.

Unlike most other Bethany immortals, Puyear went to college — Illinois State Normal — where he starred in football. He now is in the insurance business.

Puyear was good in any game he tried. For several years, he served as the star catcher for the Perfect Window Cleaners softball team in Decatur. Versatile, he also pitched, played third base and the outfield.

In 1932, Sullivan had a big, breakaway back in Bill Dwyer, who ran with high knee action.

In the Bethany game, the Mustangs had a young lightweight safety.

Raymond Scheer, a longtime Bethany resident, then principal of Sullivan High School, recalls that Dwyer broke through the Bethany line and was heading right toward safety with his knees flashing high.

"The safety just stepped aside and let Dwyer score," said Scheer. "Afterward his coach, Guy Cunningham, asked him what had happened.

He had no alibi. "I would just as soon try to tackle a bull," he replied.

Bethany had its best basketball team ever in 1974-75 when the Mustangs went to the finals of the Sectional tournament before losing, 59-57, to Hume-Shiloh.

The team was made up of Dave Warren, 6-5, Jim Bone, 5-10, Greg Florey, 6-6, Larry Puyear, 5-11, Mike Overlot, 5-9, and Bill Reeder, 6-1. This fine team holds several scoring records including a game high of 108 points against Atwood-Hammond. The Mustangs averaged 81.6 points per game while allowing opponents 55.6 points per game.

Since basketball requires only five players, Bethany High has always performed well in the sport.

Bethany in 1920-21 under Coach John T. Belting compiled a 10-4 record.

But in 1921-22, under B. W. Ward, the Mustangs caught fire and went 18-4.



1974-1975 Bethany Mustangs.

Top row, left to right: Tony Rauch, Duane Jenkins, Greg Florey, Dave Warren, Bill Reeter, and Dick Bone.

Bottom row, left to right: Ed Webb, Mike Overlot, Jim Bone, Greg Allsop, and Larry Puyear.



1921-22 basketball team.

Back row: Ted Burkhead, Dale Warren, James Walton, Coach B.W. Ward, Principal Fred Ziese, Stanley Davis, Harold Daum.

Front row: Bob Hoskins, Tom Logan, Guy Cunningham, Virgil Ward, Horace Reuss.

This squad was composed of Robert Hoskins, Tom Logan, Guy Cunningham, Virgil Ward, Horace Reuss, Theodore Birkhead, Dale Warren, James Walton, Stanley Davis and Harold Daum.

Walton stood 6-4 and was regarded as a giant in those days. But today he would be too short for a front line player in pro ball.

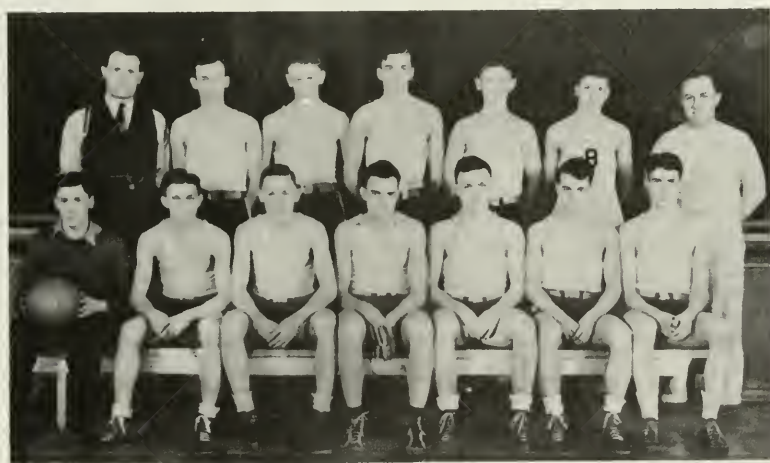
In 1923-24, Bethany defeated Argenta, Maroa, Decatur (19-18) and Weldon to win the Decatur District tournament.

Making up the team were Harold York, Glen Harding, Jim Stables, Reginald Cole, Orin Goetz and Horace Reuss.

In 1926-27, after Ward took a coaching job in Decatur, Guy Cunningham succeeded him at Bethany.

That year Bethany had one of the cleverest ball-handlers ever to play the game in Harold (Tuffy) Rhodes, who stood only about 5-7. That season Tuffy, in addition to directing the play, scored 388 points to help Bethany to a 22-10 record.

Performing with Rhodes were Orvil Oathout, Jim Snow, Hollis Dick and Lawrence Cordray.



1940-41 team Cenois Conference undefeated champions.

Top row: Coach I. C. Johnson, Loyal Pettypool, Don Saddoris (deceased), Junior Egnor (deceased), George Carpenter, Ted Ketchum, and Nick Tarro, assistant coach.

Front row: Wayne Saddoris, manager; Wendell Jones, Don Bone, Kenneth Brewer, Craig Bushert, Darrell Weakly, and Errol Reeter.

Bethany bounced back in 1927-28 for 25-5 record and won the Moultrie County tournament, led by Hollis Dick, Jim Snow and Harold Waterson.

The next fine team came in 1932-33, and it featured hot-shooting Loren Grabb.

(Grabb later became a most successful Decatur real estate developer. He died in 1975.)

In 1936, '37, '38, Bethany won district titles at Paris, Windsor and Arthur. The stars of these three teams were Vernon Oathout, Keith Orris, Don Davisson and Wendell Jones.

Bethany's 1950-51 quintet posted a bright 20-3 record and captured both the District tournament at Atwood and the County title. Leading this club were Bill Morris, James Tipsword and Bill Bland.

The 1960-61 and 1961-62 squads took district titles at Lovington, Dave Shelton and John McLaughlin paced the 1961 surge and Verl Cordray and Mike Shelton led the 1962 five.

In 1966-67, Bethany again won the district at Lovington, paced by Verral Cordray and Dick Martin.

The Bethany Jr. High Mustangs won the Illinois State Lightweight Basketball Tournament in 1960. The Mustangs were led in the four game tournament by Charles Bland with 40 points and David Walker with 39 points. Bethany defeated Mt. Sterling 40-35, Chillicothe 36-32, Pekin 54-27, and Carmi 40-35 in the final. The other members of this squad were Jack Schwartz, Mike Orris, Sam Scott, Jim Thomas, Dean Brewer, Joe Ishee, Tom Armer, and Jim Gregory.

John Moody, who starred in basketball at B.H.S. from 1957 through 1960, rates as the all-time leading scorer with 1,439 points in 85 games, an average of 16.92 a game.

John was a diabetic and in constant need of sugar. So, even at timeouts during a game, he would rush over and eat a Hershey bar, for he kept a stack of them on the bench.

Although he wolfed down many Hershey bars, Moody remained slim at 6-2. He attended the University of Illinois, but did not go out for basketball because of his disability.

Much of this basketball information comes from Glenn E. Austin, a super historian, who is assistant cashier of the Scott State Bank.

Here are the all-time leading scorers by years at B.H.S. where records were available to Austin:

1920-21, Thomas Logan 139 points; 21-22, Thomas Logan, 101; 26-27, Harold Rhodes, 388; 27-28, Orvil Oathout, 152; 28-29, Hollis Dick, 170; 29-30, Jim Scott, 124; 30-31, Jim Scott, 151; 31-32, Loren Grabb, 359; 32-33, Loren Grabb, 361; 33-34, 321; 34-35, Troy Scott, Jr., 235; 35-36, Minor Mathias, 197; 36-37, Vernon Oathout, 213; 37-38, Keith Orris, 284; 38-39, Wendell Jones, 83; 39-40, Wendell Jones 148; 40-41, Wendell Jones, 211; 42-43, Don Saddoris, 269; 43-44, Jay Sanner, Jr. (points not available); 45-46, Bill Glover, 185; 46-47, Jim Bone, 154; 47-48, Jim Goetz, 211; 48-49, Jim Walton, 326; 49-50, Bill Morris, 328; 50-51, Bill Morris, 421; 51-52, Bill Bland, 445; 52-53, Dale Bland; 53-54, Dean Puyear, 277; 54-55, Dean Puyear, 381; 55-56, Arnold Mitchell, 361; 56-57, Ronald Garrett, 334; 57-58, John Moody, 332; 58-59, John Moody 433; 59-60, John Moody, 592; 60-61, Dave Shelton, 536; 61-62, Lonnie Coslow, 408; 62-63, Mike Shelton, 400; 63-64, Gerald Garrett, 479; 64-65, Dean Brewer, 392; 65-66, Dean Brewer, 481; 66-67, Verral Cordray, 405; 67-68, Roger Crowder, 271; 68-69, Roger Crowder, 413; 69-70, Bill Smith, 265; 70-71, Randy Florey, 287; 71-72, Randy Florey, 495; 72-73, Mike Overlot, 297; 73-74, Mike Overlot, 360; 74-75, Greg Florey, 464.

Bill Pine's 1974-75 cagers won the hearts and minds and cheers of all Marrowbone fans. Most every game was a sellout, and, at two home contests, many buffs were turned away at the door.

At the Tuscola Sectional of 1975, Gibbly Florini remarked to Jim Stables of Bethany: "It looks as if all Bethany is here. I guess it's a good time for me to advise them against permitting a bar in Bethany."

Florini owns a tavern in Sullivan, well-patronized by Bethany citizens. He didn't make his speech but it was unnecessary. The liquor proposal lost at the polls, anyway.

When I was in the Echo office in the summer of 1975, a gentleman came down Main Street on a bicycle.

It turned out to be Bethany High School's first coach, C. E. (Mac) McClasin, who lives at 202 East Main Street with his wife, the former Blanche Brown, widow of Coy Brown. They were married in October, 1971.

Blanche and Mac spend their summers in Bethany, their winters in Mesa, Ariz.

McCaslin coached football, basketball and track at B.H.S. in 1916-17-18. His 1918 football team won all its three games in a schedule shortened by World War I.

On Aug. 1, 1918, Mac entered the U.S. Army with Harrison Bone and Walter Roney.

The war ended shortly after, and from 1919-23, McCaslin coached the three sports at Burlington, Iowa.

In 1923, he moved on to Fort Madison, Iowa, where he taught vocational subjects in the high school.

From 1952 to 1963, he had supervision of recreation in Fort Madison.

McCaslin retired from recreation work in 1971. Mac used to play a lot of golf but an injury grounded him.

But, a stickler for physical fitness, he has never been out of shape.

Several Bethany High School graduates became coaches.

Guy Cunningham, graduated in 1922, returned to B.H.S. as basketball, track and football coach in 1926-27 and stayed until the late 1930s.

Don Davisson, a 1938 graduate, coached football at Collinsville High but in 1975 was its golf coach.

Dean Puyear (B.H.S., 1956) coached at Streator but soon gave up coaching to sell life insurance around Bloomington, Ill.

Dean Brewer (B.H.S., 1966) coached football and basketball at Illiopolis.

And Jim Thomas (B.H.S., 1965) was coaching track at Stephen Decatur High in 1975.

Chapter 11

The Musical Doc Boros Keeps Bethany in Tune

It was a fine, warm August day in 1939 when a young doctor, Eugene J. Boros, and his wife, the former Helen Reson, rolled into Bethany in their car.

Driving around the village, Dr. Boros found it quiet and orderly. Birdsongs filled the air, as well as the sweet aroma of lilacs. Moreover, it was close to Sullivan, where his college friend, Bill Scott, a native of Monticello, had started his medical practice. And his good friend, Dr. William Requarth, had begun his medical career in his home town of Decatur, where he was once an Eagle Scout.

Dr. Boros was so impressed by Bethany that he decided to inaugurate his practice there.

Bethany citizens never heard of Dr. Boros before. But it was the greatest thing to happen to the village, as it soon was to learn.

Very few doctors have the qualities of Dr. Boros. He combines the friendliness of early-day physicians with the competence of the most knowing of today's doctors.

His medical training has never stopped. A voracious reader, he keeps in close touch with all new medical practices and ideas.

Nor does Dr. Boros mind long hours and hard work. In the morning, he covers the hospitals and nursing homes. Then, after lunch, comes his long day at his downtown Bethany office. Sometimes, there are so many patients awaiting him, that he does not escape until 11 p.m.

Doc Boros understands the problems of his patients, and he is most honest with them.

He doesn't hesitate to send a patient to the hospital or to a specialist, if he feels it necessary.

When he can find the spare time, Doc likes to return to his original chosen profession — music. He loves to play the piano. He once rewrote Bach's nine-volumes, written for the organ, into music for the piano.

But he can also play the organ, as he has demonstrated at the Presbyterian Church.



E. J. Boros, M. D.

Bill McIlwain, former publisher of the Bethany Echo, described him as "witty when it's time to be witty, serious when it's time to be serious."

Bethany has been so proud of Dr. Boros that it honored him in August, 1964, for his 25 years of unstinted service to the town.

Some 800 persons turned out to pay homage to the pleasant dark-complexioned doctor at the testimonial, held in Bethany High School's gym.

McIlwain, serving as master of ceremonies, gave the welcome and narrated "This Is Your Life" part of the program.

Will Boros, his brother, gave some interesting sidelights of Dr. Boros' early life, telling where he derived his drive and interest.

Dr. William Requarth gave the main address, pointing out how fortunate the community was to have a doctor as competent as Dr. Boros.

Mayor F. H. Bland presented Dr. Boros with a plaque in recognition of his long service to the community.

The late Joe Scott, then president of the Scott State Bank, who was chairman of the "Dr. Boros Day Committee," presented Doc with a wrist watch on behalf of the people of Bethany. Several new pieces of equipment were purchased for his office, in which he was soon to move.

Dr. Boros warmly accepted his accolade, and he thanked the community for "such a fine day in my life." A reception followed the program.

Dr. Boros was born in Toledo, Ohio, a son of the late Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Boros. When Eugene, named after his father, was 3, the family moved to Gary, Ind., where the Boroses remained two years before going to Chicago.

Dr. Boros' father was the minister of the Reformed Evangelical Church and held pastorates at three Hungarian churches in Chicago.

His mother, a skilled musician and linguist, assisted her husband with his church work, and she also started the boy off on a musical career by giving him piano lessons at the age of 3. At 5, Eugene was put under an accomplished piano instructor.

He continued his music studies at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. He also gave piano lessons to kids while attending Park High School in Chicago. Eugene played the organ, as well, every Sunday for nine years in his father's three churches. He also played at weddings and other celebrations to help pay his own way.

After giving up his idea of becoming a minister, Dr. Boros entered the University of Chicago in 1930, and received his BS Degree in 1934. He studied Greek, Latin and history with the idea of being a teacher of theology.

In 1934, during the Chicago World's Fair, he sought to find work as a musician but the Depression was still on, and competition for jobs still severe.

Unable to find work, Dr. Boros then thought about becoming a doctor. He had read two books, "Men in White," and "Of Mice and Men," both of which stirred his interest in becoming a doctor.

He was offered a scholarship to study medicine at the University of Budapest, Hungary, which he accepted. He had been there only two months when his father died suddenly of a heart attack.

Returning for his funeral, Dr. Boros then entered the University of Chicago again, taking pre-medicine for two years; later he entered Rush Medical College, which was then a division of the University of Chicago.

While attending Rush, he met his wife, Helen, whom he married in 1935.

Dr. Boros completed his college training in 1938, and did his internship at the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

After arriving in Bethany, he continued to practice until he entered the Medical Corp in World War II in 1942 with the rank of second lieutenant. He served until March, 1945, when he was released with the rank of captain, and he at once resumed his practice at Bethany.

Dr. and Mrs. Boros have two sons, Bill of Los Angeles, Gene of Ames, Iowa; and two daughters, Mrs. James (Rhoda) Terlizzi of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Jack (Renee) Lundy of Chicago.

Chapter 12

The Bethany Echo — Mirror of Life

Since Bethany started to grow before the turn of the Century, there were three stable businesses in town: Wilkinson Lumber Co., Scott State Bank and The Bethany Echo.

By 1975, only the bank and the Echo survived.

The Bethany Echo since pioneer days has provided a permanent record of how people live and what has happened.

Newspapers are so important for obtaining past facts that the State of Illinois is now microfilming all dailies and weeklies in the state.

While researching this book in the summer of 1975, it was impossible to get precise dates on some early events for the Echoes of this period were in Springfield being photographed.

The Bethany Echo had its genesis in April, 1888, when Frank Trainer opened up with only \$25 behind him. During the six-month period that Trainer was setting up his shop and hustling advertising, he made arrangements to have the paper printed on an Army press in Decatur.

For 12 years, the Echo office was on the north side of Main Street, where the Library is today.

Late in the last century, fire destroyed the building to the west of The Echo, and Trainer felt the building too weak for his new presses.

In November, 1893, Trainer, in ill health, sold the shop and paper to John Robertson, and Robertson continued to publish the paper until March, 1898, when Trainer, recovered, bought it back.

J. W. McIlwain purchased The Bethany Echo from Trainer Nov. 1, 1898, thus beginning 75 years of continuous family ownership.

He quit his job as a teacher in schools around Moultrie County to devote full time to his weekly.

At once he bought a new press for his job printing and a Washington hand newspaper press. At the same time, he

changed the paper from four columns to five.

Over the years, The Echo has shifted back and forth between full size and tabloid. It was the first paper in Central Illinois to go tabloid, the favorite size of bus and subway-riding city workers.

Circulation kept increasing so McIlwain purchased a Monona Leverless Cylinder Press that could print 800 papers.

From the start, The Echo published a Dalton City edition as an insert to The Bethany Echo. At the time, eggs were 10 cents a dozen and butter 10 cents a pound.

Advertisers of this era included Bone and Guthrie, veterinarians; Fleming and Noble, Wheeler & Campbell, J. M. Hogg, Pyatt's Restaurant, J. B. Brock, jeweler and optician; Bone's Cash Shoe Store, Ross Lawrence, dentist, D. L. Farm Equipment and Armstrong Bros. Hardware.

By 1926, the Echo had even more advertisers, its all-time high. So a serial was run called "Black Gang," and earlier, a comic strip, "Mr. Henry Peck and His Family Affairs."

On January, 1900, C. E. Heckler reached Bethany, driving a hayrack. Immediately, he secured a job at the Echo. For two weeks he stayed at the three-story Kendall Hotel until his family arrived to enjoy his more than three decades of service with the paper.

McIlwain got much of his news at the busy depot, where he interviewed those waiting for the train and then the arrivals as they dismounted.

J. W. continued to publish The Echo until his death in March, 1931, at the age of 64.

He had been married three times. He and his first wife, Effie Foster, had two sons, Elmer and George. She died in 1908 and George died following a diving accident at Wyman Lake in Sullivan in 1925. J. W. later married Mrs. Cora Schwartz, who had two sons, Bliss and Theodore. After the death of his second wife, McIlwain married Mattie Hoskins, who survived him.

Elmer McIlwain was running a garage in Sullivan when his father died, and he immediately sold his business to take over the Echo. Elmer was married in 1920 to Lois McMullin of Sullivan, and they had a son, William.

Elmer purchased the Findlay Enterprise from the late Mrs. Bonnie Mauzey in August, 1947, and printed it along with The Echo.

Elmer's son, Bill, after a hitch in the Navy, opened Mac's Appliance and Refrigerator Service in Bethany. Later, he and Harold (Tuffy) Rhodes, the basketball whiz, opened a Rhodes & McIlwain Hardware store.

In 1952, Bill decided to go into the newspaper business with his father.

Elmer McIlwain suffered a heart attack in February, 1956, and died two weeks later at the age of 59.

Bill McIlwain then became the publisher of The Echo.

He also started a column, "Thinking Out Loud," in which he was alternately humorous and serious, nor did he ever duck controversial subjects.

Following the death of Elmer McIlwain, his widow moved to Sullivan, where she worked for the Moultrie County News until her death.

Bill McIlwain married Marguerite Shuck, and they have three children, Cynthia, Margaret and Bill.

And his family often helped him in publishing the two papers.

More and more business houses were failing in Bethany, and it became necessary to bring in advertising from nearby towns to survive.

In August, 1973, Bill made the decision to sell The Bethany Echo and Findlay Enterprise, and he made the announcement in his column, explaining his reason for selling after 21 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Best, owners of the thriving Moultrie County News, bought the two papers.

With the Sept. 6, 1973 edition, Mrs. Best took over as editor of the Findlay Enterprise and Mrs. Janine Shervey as the editor of The Bethany Echo.

To keep up with the changing times, the three papers are published in offset, which is an improvement over hot type and much less expensive.

Shortly after the sale, Ruth Suddarth, took over as office manager of The Echo, for which she does much of the writing.

Trained as a bookkeeper, Ruth brought a sense of business to the newspaper and a realization of the value of time. She also developed into a thorough and facile writer.

Bill kept his job printing press and has been a big help to Ruth in tipping her off to news sources as well as cheering her with his happy personality.

Bill has the voice of a television announcer, and few can tell a story better.

Many big businesses today don't even know how their trademark originated, and have no thought of history.

The Bethany Echo always has been a wholesome paper that doesn't have to be hid from the children. It never deals in the sordid or the profane. Perhaps the tone of the Echo was set in an editorial of Aug. 15, 1912 by J. W. McIlwain. It follows:

"A good many editors are said to 'not know much.' The trouble is they know a lot of stuff they do not tell. They know who drinks the beer, and they know the ladies who deviate from the straight path of rectitude. They know the boys who smoke in the alleys and dark places, and the girls who are out auto riding till the roosters crow for daylight. They know the fellows who are good to pay and they know the fellows who cannot get trusted for a tobacco bag full of salt. They could guess at once why some fellows to go Hot Springs and they guess pretty closely what they do when they get there. Even in a town like this, they know enough to make one of the hottest, rip-snorting, double-gearred, back-action, chain-lightning editions ever read but they also know it is best for the community and themselves to let the law take care of humanity's devilment and publish only such news as will do to read at the fireside and in the Sunday School."

Chapter 13

Of Teachers and Preachers

Education first came to Marrowbone Township in 1833 when Addison Smith taught the first school in a log cabin.

Later, a Miss Snyder taught in the private residence of Stephen McReynolds in Bethany in 1871. Christopher Beck was the teacher in the next Bethany school, held in the second story of Joseph Smutz' storehouse.

James Robert Crowder in 1837 donated the land for the Crowder School, which later became Pleasant Hill.

The first school house built in Bethany was a frame one-story building with two rooms, constructed in 1874. Two teachers were employed.

D. F. Stearns, county superintendent in 1870-71, reported that 413 students between the ages of 6 and 21 attended schools in Marrowbone Township.

Spelling and ciphering contests were contested between country schools in the early days.

There also were accidents. In 1882, Prudy Richardson, 8, was injured at school when a boy pulled a chair back as she started to sit down. In falling, she hit her head on the chair and damaged the mastoid area. After two weeks of excruciating pain, she died.

Bethany High School graduated its first class in 1890.

In 1887, a two-story frame, four-room grade school was built in Bethany. Atop it was a bell, which called the students to school. Four teachers were employed.

The old two-room school was sold to A. R. Scott, who moved it to 209 W. Main Street for storage of grain. Later, it was torn down to make for a firehouse.

The new school building provided steam heat in all rooms. And there was a bridge across the branch that flowed across the school yard.

As country school population declined, it became difficult to finance any of them. By 1937-38, Pleasant Hill and Lake Scheer were closed. In 1943, there was no school at White, Bushert, New Hope, American, Younger and Center. New Hope later reopened.



Lois Coombs taught this class in 1909 or 1910.

Back row: Katharyn Bone, Pearl Smith, Della Smith, Noble Scheer, Orville Cunningham, Frankie Kennedy.

Front row: Marjorie Wilkinson, Marjorie McGuire, Frankie Redman, Rollo St. John, Felecia Guar, Daisy Parker Eskridge and Marjorie Hogg Low.



Back row: Porter Wilkinson, Fred Ward and the teacher, Dora DeBruler.

Middle row: Scott Wilkinson, Fred Livesey, unknown, Ruth Bankson, Mary Crowder Clark, Mable Rhodes.

Front row: Margaret Starr, Marie Armstrong Rhodes, Melvin St. John, Bonnie Warren Foster, Mildred Hudson Mathias, Thelma Parker, Carl Gerard.

By 1946, only two rural schools were operating in Marrowbone Township — New Hope and Cropper.

The country schools have had some notable teachers. The Rev. Raymond McAllister, the popular young bachelor then, taught at Cropper School from 1931 to 1934.

Mrs. Scott Dalton was recognized as one of the best country-school teachers in the state. She started teaching in the new King School, one mile east of Dalton City, which had an enrollment of 42 pupils. Her first salary was \$50 a month. On her retirement, the Moultrie County News gave her quite an accolade.

The article quoted her as saying: "You think you can't have a spelling class in three minutes. Well you can. Another thing: you can have two spelling classes at the same time — one seated and another class at the blackboard."

The county superintendent of schools said of Mrs. Dalton: "She's worth a million dollars with a bunch of kids."

While Bethany High School was under construction at a cost of \$40,000, classes continued to be held in the old grade school and the Methodist Church across the street. A two-year high school course was introduced in 1900, and, in 1913, four years were offered.

The grade school was razed in 1926, and a new four-room brick building was erected the same year. The structure had a full basement; one half used as a play room and the other half as a rest room for girls on the south and for boys in the middle and west side. It was built by O. E. Wheeler and Sons.

The high school gymnasium also was built by O. E. Wheeler and Sons, at a cost of \$35,120 and was dedicated April 1, 1939.

It was financed by a \$50,000 bond issue, which also took care of conversion of the old gym into four class rooms at a cost of \$8,000 and an electrical contract for \$1,529.40.

In 1960, the high school needed more space, and the additional work was awarded Mark Wheeler, O. E. Wheeler's son, on a bid of \$205,709. It was financed by a \$15,000 bond issue.

Country schools were hard hit in the Depression years. In 1930, Lake Scheer School had only five students. In 1933, there were four students, all children of Jesse Dick.

Despite heated protests from farmers, the Bethany Community Consolidated School District No. 68 was formed in 1945 of these districts: Pulltight, White, Bushart, American, Bethany, Pleasant Hill, Center and Cook. In 1948, the grade school building was remodeled and enlarged to care for the new influx of rural pupils.

In 1969, the West Hudson school building was torn down to make way for the Shelbyville Reservoir project. It was the school that produced V-Roy, the Magician.

Homer Keown bought the first school bus in 1942, which was used to transport pupils from their homes in the country to schools in Bethany.

In 1975, the district had five drivers and an alternate. Overall, the district employed 67 persons.

A big help to all students is the Bethany Library, started modestly in 1926. For some 30 years, Cora Hudson was the driving force behind the library, long operated on the second floor of the Scott State Bank Building.

The Library is now more conveniently located on Main Street, across from The Echo office.

The new librarian is pretty Joann Groves, a skilled librarian and the most helpful one you will find in the nation.

Joann has expanded the library and is constantly adding new magazines.

The first church in Bethany was the Cumberland Presbyterian, organized May 14, 1831, by the Rev. James David Foster in the home of Capt. James Fruit.

In 1832, a log cabin was built where the Soldiers' monument now stands in the old section of the Bethany Cemetery. Called the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the structure stood until 1854, when it was replaced by a frame building costing \$2,200.

The Rev. James N. Hogg, an early minister of the church, is buried on the spot where the pulpit was located.

The frame church lasted until 1884, when a brick structure replaced it.

Dissension broke out among the members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the C.P. flock broke away from the others and held their services in the Vadakin Opera House until their present building was erected in 1911.

The Presbyterian Church, founded July 3, 1906 by G. H. Silviu, built its present brick structure in 1916.

St. Isadore's Catholic Church was founded Aug. 14, 1863 by A. Voghl; the Oak Grove Baptist in 1868 by Joseph Perryman; the Methodist in 1870 by Joseph Shartz; Christian in 1875 by Elder Orgot; Free Methodist June 30, 1890 by Edward Cryder.

Bethany early in the century sent two missionaries into foreign fields. Miss Jennie Freeland went to Japan, where at first she was considered a white devil and not permitted to land.



Sunday School class at the Methodist Church, early 1900's.
Back row: Glenn Brewer, Ava McKinney, Madge McLaughlin,
Melva Hoskins Snyder. Front row: Nita Niles Reams, Ella Shep-
herd, Daisy Parker Eskridge, Russell Wright.

Dr. O. T. Logan went to China. After arriving, he suffered an appendicitis attack. He told his wife how to operate on him, and she did it successfully. He later was shot by an insane Chinese.

Katharyn Bone of the remarkable Bone family taught for years in country schools and in Bethany Grade School, and later did substitute teaching.

Many wonderful teachers, as well as preachers, have come and gone, touching the lives of Bethany youngsters in such a way as to make them better citizens.

I should know for I am married to a former Bethany High School teacher, the erstwhile Kathleen Smith, who taught home economics.

Every person who attended Bethany High School or Grade School has his own favorite teacher, as I have mine.

In grade school my mind was on sports and other things. In Bethany High School, Lola Peterson, who later became Mrs. Clifford Smith, also a Bethany teacher, gave me a firm understanding of English grammar in her Latin classes.

And so many boys and men have told me that Loren Brumfield, long principal at Bethany Grade school, "had straightened them out."

Chapter 14

Some Left to Achieve Success

Bethany has sired several successful men who followed diverse trails, most riding their boyhood hobbies to the promised land.

The prime example is Jim Wilkinson, a 1931 graduate of Bethany High School, who made his avocation his vocation. Wilkinson, who lives near Prescott, Ariz., has become America's No. 1 big game hunter and, at the same time, he operates a lucrative gun shop, attached to his palatial home.

Wesley Jones, who grew up in Bethany, later became a Senator from Seattle, Wash.

Will Guthrie, another son of Bethany, rose to one of the West's most successful lawyers, working out of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Another Bethany boy, John R. Fitzgerald, blossomed out of as one of Decatur's leading lawyers.

Bob Crowder, a 1929 graduate of Bethany High School, rates as the leading interior designer in the sprawling Los Angeles area. He stresses the Japanese motif.

Crowder, well-known for his exquisite murals and screens, began studying and painting with the Japanese masters when he first went to the Orient as an instructor in the Imperial University. The paintings from Crowder are distinctive works of art, treasured by their owners.

Jim Ashmore became a big-time college coach of football and golf. Late in life, he was elected Macon County clerk and died in office. His sister, Lillie Ashmore, was appointed to finish his term.

As a boy in Bethany, Virgil Hampton became enchanted with magic. And it was to be his life's work. Today, known all over the nation as V-Roy, he is a worthy successor to Harry Houdini, Blackstone, Thurston, et al.

But Hampton considered Ed Reno, the best all-around magician, and he patterned his career after Reno's.

V-Roy grew so skilled and adroit with his hands that in 1971 CBS did a documentary on him.

He suffered a setback in 1974 when one of his lungs was removed, and V-Roy was hospitalized for two months. The operation reduced the volume of his voice, so needed in his profession.

On the road, V-Roy carries a staff of six. Paul Watson and Maurice Minor, both of Bethany, work for him.

Hampton is now teaching two of his grandchildren, Lisa and Kimberly Tomlinson, magic so they can join his act.

V-Roy quit Bethany High School before graduation, for he had so many offers and he felt that a diploma wouldn't help his presentation.

As a youth he frequently was used by Dr. James H. Vadakin in his Opera House.

"I became a good friend of Doc," said V-Roy. "In those days he wore a red toupee."

He first hit the road in 1926 with the John Robinson Circus, in which he served as a sideshow magician.

A fine musician, V-Roy played with the Bethany Concert Band when home in the summer. And in 1928, he performed with the Al Flosso Carnival Band.

V-Roy had his most amusing experience in 1950, when he was called to perform in Alberta, Canada.

"Eddie and Ruth" were supposed to be the act but they couldn't make it. So Irving Grossman, the booking agent, wanted V-Roy to use that name, so familiar in Canada.

Naturally, V-Roy didn't like it.

Then so many persons seemed so thrilled to see V-Roy that the promoter found out that he was better known in Canada than he realized. So he let him use his own name.

Wherever he goes, V-Roy usually runs into someone from Bethany. Playing Oklahoma City once, he was met back stage at performance's end by Mr. and Mrs. Chase Coffey, who had driven in from a nearby state.

Chase, well-groomed and polite, is the well-respected son of Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Coffey, the doctor who so long served Bethany so well.

But, for thrilling experiences, no other Bethany man is in it with Jim Wilkinson.

Take the time he was in Rhodesia, Africa, for the Big Five, and he caught sight of rhinoceros tracks in the heavy brush.

With him was the white hunter, Andrew Holmberg, a Britisher, plus three spear-carrying natives from the San Buru tribe.

They rode for three hours, under a blazing sun, and now they could hear the beast going through the brush. They dismounted and crept slowly through the thickets, aware that the rhino has good hearing. A rancid odor of decaying vegetation, crushed berries and bodies of small animals disturbed the stillness in their advance.

As they drew near, Wilkinson's jacket caught on a branch, and it made a noise as it snapped back after he had disengaged the garment. They were near a clearing and the rhino heard them.

The monster turned around, snorted and, with head down, raced toward Jim, who was in the lead. Wilkinson wanted one with a big horn but one on this whopper was short. So he didn't want him. He thought the rhino, like other animals, would charge and then stop.

Holmberg cried out from the rear: "Shoot, you damned fool."

The enraged animal was now 10 yards from Wilkinson as he raised his custom-built 458 Magnum and fired at his head. The rhino staggered but still started to come on again. Then Wilkinson killed him with a shot into the heart.

"I didn't want this one," Jim told Holmberg.

"You had no choice, buddy," replied the Englishman. "If you had waited three seconds longer, we'd all be bloody dead."

Wilkinson, who has hunted all over the world, got his Big Five on that trip: elephant, rhino, cape buffalo, lion and leopard.

Before Wilkinson killed his lion, it almost frightened the natives out of their skin. The lion had been killing cattle in the area, and the natives warmly greeted the hunters.

Jim killed a zebra, and it was suspended from a tree near where the lion had appeared, so that the lion could only nibble at it and not drag it away. They then dug a blind near the tree and crawled into it. Luckily, the native helpers covered it well with brush.

They were in the blind for only a few minutes when Wilkinson noticed the eyes of the natives had become as

large as saucers and that they were trembling. This puzzled him. When he started to ask what was the trouble, Holmberg put his finger over his mouth to indicate silence.

The lion was sniffing around the blind, and the natives had looked squarely into his eyes. Fortunately, his scent is poor and, since vultures were circling the zebra, the lion moved on to feed. As he jumped up to drag down a piece of meat, Wilkinson raised his 284 Magnum and brought him down dead.

They also put out bait for the leopard and constructed a blind in a nearby tree. Wilkinson then left to hunt other game after telling the natives to let him know if the leopard returned.

It was mid-afternoon when he received word that the leopard was back. As they entered the blind, birds were chirping and a monkey was scampering around the hide-out, and Wilkinson feared it would tip off the leopard.

Lying still on the boards, the men waited for several hours. Twilight had now arrived. Wilkinson kept his rifle trained on the bait. Suddenly a paw appeared in the darkness, and Wilkinson fired his magnum.

"What in the world were you shooting at?" asked Holmberg.

"I killed the leopard — a big one," Jim relied.

"How could you see him? I couldn't see a damned thing in the dark!"

"Through the scope," said Wilkinson. "You can see better through it in the dark."

"Well, I bet you didn't hit anything," rasped Holmberg.

Slowly they approached, and their flashlights showed that Wilkinson had indeed killed a large leopard.

For the cape buffalo, they built a blind near where the herd came to graze. A few hours passed before the buffalos returned.

With the fastidiousness of a bibliophile picking precious books from a shelf, Wilkinson sorted out the herd in mind's eye till he finally found the biggest bull with the biggest horns. He fired at the heart. The buffalo ran for a cluster of trees nearby and disappeared. Jim waited to hear the death bellow they always make before dying. Once he heard it, the men moved in and took the head, leaving the rest of the carcass for other animals to enjoy.

He went on to get his Big Five.

One of Wilkinson's most tiring hunts came in 1974 in the Caucasus Mountains of Russia. This time he was after the tur, which has characteristics of both the ibex and the stag. The mountains rise 15,000 feet, and, after Wilkinson and his friend, Jim Turner, had climbed 6,000 feet, they caught sight of a herd of some 25 turs. Frightened, the turs took off toward the other side of the mountain.

Immediately, Jim raised his magnum, focussed his sights on a big one and, from 600 yards, hit him on the rear end before he could scamper around the corner and out of range. Because of the steepness of the mountain, the two men had a struggle in the cold holding onto the 200-pound tur as they descended.

Wilkinson rates as one of 50 men in North America to perform the Grand Slam by killing four species of North American sheep: dall in Alaska, stone in British Columbia, Rocky Mountain big horn in Idaho and desert big horn in Arizona.

In India, in 1970, Wilkinson and his Shikar went after a ferocious tiger that had been killing the natives' bullocks.

Jim and his aides constructed a machan in a tree near the field where the bullocks grazed. The tiger has excellent eyesight but is weak on scent.

After waiting patiently on their stomachs for more than an hour, Wilkinson saw the tiger slipping through the high grass about 50 yards away. Since the birds were making a commotion in the trees, Jim decided to try for him right then. He fired a bullet into the heart. Enraged, the tiger sprang forward, but a second shot to head dropped him.

On one trip to Alaska, Jim brought home a 69-inch horn spread of a moose, and it gained him a mention in the Boone & Crockett Big Game record book. He also bagged a dall ram and a Yukon grizzly.

The goatee-like clump hanging under the throat of the moose is known as a "bell." It appears in both sexes and sometimes reaches the length of 36 inches in a young male.

Wilkinson was a whiz in manual training at Bethany High School, and he later worked several years in the Wilkinson Lumber Yard in Bethany, where he gained a knowledge of carpentry.

Near Prescott, he built his own home and gun shop, which is attached to it. And there rest all the main trophies of his worldwide hunts.

The gun shop is dominated by a huge white polar bear, rising 12 feet on his hind legs. It was shot in the Bering Straights between Alaska and Siberia, after Jim had tracked it for 40 miles through deep snow and temperatures 30 degrees below zero. Behind the bear on the wall ; are the heads and horns of his Grand Slam in mountain sheep.

Entering Jim's den, you are shocked by the size of the moose head, as well as of the water buffalo, about the toughest animal to take.

Looking as if it is strolling across the room is a 550-pound black-maned lion, which Jim killed in Kenya. He was old and smart and tough to find, even though he crept in at night to eat the ranchers' cattle.

Looking even more menacing is the man-eating tiger Jim brought down in India.

Wilkinson makes all sorts of rifles to the specifications of the buyers. He uses fine California walnut and choice wood from all over the world. The wood is then sent to his friend, Bob Hopper, of Decatur, Ill., who creates the rifle stock to the weight and size preferred by the client.

Jim also uses engravings on the metal of his rifles. For example, one of his rifles carries the likeness of his Grand Slam in sheep.

In the fall of 1974, Wilkinson became the first American to hunt in Mongolia, controlled by Russia.

He first had to fly to New York to secure a Russian visa, and then to London for a Mongolian visa.

Jim got Mongolia's permission, for the government is anxious for tourist trade, and officials felt hunting to be the principal attraction.

With him went two of his Arizona friends.

"The forest trees were so close together, it was difficult to hunt," said Wilkinson. "And the game doesn't venture into the open spaces."

The Mongolians in charge knew little about hunting. The Mongolian interpreters became drunk and delayed the trip more than a day.

"We had flown into Ulan Bator, the capital of the

Mongolian People's Republic, from Frankfort, West Germany. The flight, made in a Soviet prop jet, had four stops in Siberia and took 11 hours.

"I didn't realize the vast scope of Siberia before. They have new cities, hydroelectric plants, steel mills and vast wheat fields. They have at least 15 Alaskas worth of resources."

On reaching Ulan Bator, the men were put in charge of the Mongolian Intourist agency, which puts strict limits on what they could see. Each hunter was assigned an interpreter, all well-versed in Communist propaganda.

Ruby Wilkinson, Jim's wife, is a stamp collector, so Jim brought home many stamps. Some contained photos of Lenin, others of wild game.

The hunters were put up in a good hotel in Ulan Bator, where tourists always are assigned.

After two days there, the hunters and their interpreters boarded a single-engine bi-plane for a small village near the Russian border.

There they were picked up by a Russian-made four-wheel drive truck and driven another 30 miles over open countryside to a small town where they met three horsemen and three local guides, one for each of the hunters.

The men slept in Yertas, portable huts used by native Mongolians. Each contained enough for three persons to sleep, plus a stove and table for eating.

Jim's most vivid memory of the trip came the night he and his interpreter, guide and horsemen were separated from the others.

It began raining that night so Jim's interpreter moved his sleeping bag into Wilkinson's tent, bringing with him a stack of food, including onions and raw meat.

"The combination of the food odors and the snoring of my interpreter, in the tightly zipped tent, made sleeping difficult. It seemed strange to me to be in a strange tent with a snoring Communist," Jim mentioned.

The hunt was for five animals: bear, boar, moral deer, roebuck and giant Mongolian moose. Together, they accounted for only two, a roebuck and a moral deer, despite the thickness of the forest.

The interpreters had doubts about the visit for the

government didn't want America to know how the Mongolians live.

However, Wilkinson's horseman invited him to spend a day in his home, a log cabin such as existed in America in its early days. The cabin had one room with a board floor. The only light was provided by candles. The furniture consisted of a primitive iron stove in the center of the room, three single beds along the walls and a cabinet where horse milk was stored for fermentation.

The Mongolian made every effort to make Wilkinson welcome. He gave him a cup of tea, seasoned with salt. Jim managed to get it down. Then came the fermented horse milk, even harder to swallow.

And, when Jim left the next day, the horseman presented him with a pipe. Jim gave him a fresh pair of his thermal underwear.

The hunting party was the biggest thing that ever had happened in the village. Everyone — some 50 — gathered to look at the hunters and their guns before they departed. It was the first time they had seen white men.

There's no part of the world in which Jim Wilkinson has not hunted, so no other Bethany resident gets around as he has.

Born and reared in Bethany, Jim started going to Arizona in summer as a youngster, after his father had purchased land there. His brother, Jasper, was the rancher.

In the early morning Jim would ride out into Lonesome Valley and watch cowboys working their herds. And in the evening, he would sit by the fireside and read the most exciting hunting stories he could find. As a teenager, in 1933, he started hunting in earnest.

The more Jim pursued Western game, the more interested he became in improving guns and ammunition. He began making his own custom guns and handloading the shells.

He returned to Bethany to work in his father's lumberyard and marry his sweetheart, Ruby. But he couldn't get Arizona off his mind.

So, in 1946, the Wilkinsons moved to Prescott, Jim fell in love, too, with Lonesome Valley, five miles east of Prescott, and he bought a tract of land there, just in front

of a granite hill, and there he built his home and gunshop, named Rifle Ranch.

Big game hunters from all the nation gather there to swap experiences, look over Jim Wilkinson's awesome trophies and perhaps order a special gun from him.

Chapter 15

Centennial Farms Keep Bethany Sound

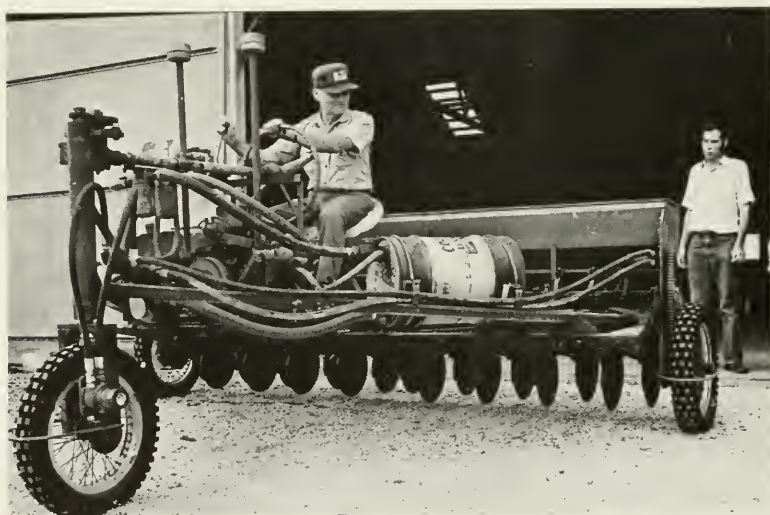
Farm families around Bethany since 1900 have kept the village financially sound through ever year's cornucopia of crops.

Many farms have remained in one family for a century, and have been rewarded by the Illinois State government with a Centennial certificate. They would include the Marrowbone Township farms of Alvin Stark, Robert Snyder, Elmer Wilkinson and Lloyd Younger, Jr.

We'll consider here, Younger's, as one is much like the other. His great-grandfather came to Marrowbone in a covered wagon in 1866.

A great-grandfather, William Younger, arrived in Marrowbone near the end of the Civil War, leaving behind 10 children.

To get his family to Marrowbone, he returned to the south at night. Daytime, he slept in caves, for, if he were



Lloyd Younger, Jr. is pictured on his self-propelled drill. The drill is used to sow soy beans in a standing crop of wheat.

found by Confederate soldiers, he would be shot. He finally arrived safely in the East and, after the war, brought his family back with him.

William Younger bought a farm, south of Bethany. Lloyd Younger, Jr.'s grandfather, James Younger, added 40 acres at \$1 an acre. Gradually, he bought more land as he could afford it. The Youngers also raised pigs, cows, chickens and vegetables and, in 1895, they made another land purchase, at \$4 an acre.

Lloyd Younger Sr. and Hugh Younger increased the family acreage which is now farmed by Robert Younger and Danny Coleman, who married Lloyd's and Gwen's daughter Cherie.

Chapter 16

Bethany's Future Glows Bright

Bethany used to be the place to flee; today it's the place-to-be.

This is because of the creation in 1970 of the great \$56 million Lake Shelbyville, which laps up to Bethany's shores.

The lake offers approximately 250 miles of shoreline, and 11,100 surface acres of water.

In 1975, the lake had three Marinas: Fox Harbor, near Sullivan; Lithia Springs, at Shelbyville, and the third at Findlay.

The purpose of Lake Shelbyville is for the development of the Kaskaskia River Basin for flood control, water supply and wildlife conservation, recreation and downstream water quality control.

Hunting and fishing are excellent around the lake.

More than five million fingerlings of northern pike, walleye and smallmouth bass have been planted in the lake by the Illinois Department of Conservation. The other fish available are crappie, sunfish and channel cat.

To provide good upland game hunting more than 6,000 acres of the upper reaches of the lake have been licensed to the Illinois Department of Conservation for wildlife management purposes. Offered are squirrels, cottontails, and bobwhite quail, plus waterfowl.

Camping is also permitted in certain areas around the lake, including Coon Creek and the Sullivan Access, which are equipped with complete electrical hookup, laundry and shower building, along with a trailer and camper sanitary dump station.

And many scenic picnic areas beckon.

But most of all, it is a lake for boating and water sports, including swimming and skiing.

It has been estimated that about half of the Bethany homes have a boat.

"Has the lake brought many new businesses to Bethany?" the writer asked Mary Scott, vice president of the Scott State Bank.

"Only one bait shop," she replied. "But one thing, it has done is to keep the youngsters in Bethany after they have been graduated from high school."

So many Decatur executives now own boats, anchored at the Findlay Marina.

Jim Beaumont, a Staley executive, is among the many who keep a cruiser there. Beaumont is an old friend of mine, for we worked together on the Decatur Review.

Parties are the big things with the Decatur nabobs, who never know when they will have to throw one. Bill Rhea, the friendly, Findlay undertaker, has been hired by several Decatur firms to keep their boats stocked with food and refreshments, and operates some of the cruisers.

Rhea is surprised that more business houses haven't opened in Bethany. At 1,300 population, it is much larger than it was 50 years ago when it had more businesses.

Certainly a soft ice cream stand would go big on Highway 121 in Bethany since it would get the boat trade, as well as the tourists and the citizens of Bethany, who no longer have a soda fountain.

But Bethany most of all is a successful farm community that will grow larger as the worldwide demand for grain increases yearly.

Marrowbone was covered by prairie grass for thousands of years so the soil is still so rich.

The topography of Moultrie County is idea for farming, being between 640 and 700 feet above sea level. The land is flat but rolls gently upward along the slopes of the Kaskaskia River.

Moultrie has 182,700 acres of excellent cropland, which makes up 83 per cent of the total county area. Centuries of decay of the prairie grass has made the soil most fertile. The county also has 9,900 acres of land suited for pasture and 6,400 acres for woodland.

Today the major crops are corn and soybeans. Minor crops include rye, oats and wheat.

Many farmers are now using crop residue by leaving it on the land, especially corn and bean, through the fall and winter months. The crop residue protects the soil from wind and water erosion.

The lake has brought into Marrowbone many sportsmen interested in boating and fishing, and many housing sub-

divisions are going up in Bethany and other nearby communities.

Farmers and retired farmers also are flocking to the lake for boating and fishing. It is easier for them to get a loan from Fred Young at the Scott State Bank for they have the best security.

To make sure the Shelbyville Lake fish are well taken care of the Moultrie Soil and Water Conservation District employs Rod Horner, a fishing biologist.

While the lake will give lasting recreation to generations ahead, it is the farmers who will keep Marrowbone financially sound and ever-growing.

Scott, Helen
Starr, Margaret
Woolen, Margaret
Younger, Hugh

Class of 1917

Bone, Lillis
Goetz, Hazel
Heckler, Susie
Mathias, Joe L.
Sampley, Minnie
Walker, Harper
Ward, Russel

Class of 1918

Armstrong, Jack
Birkhead, Zae
Crowder, Mary
Esry, Velma
Fletcher, Grace
Fuqua, Clarence
Hoskins, Melva
McGuire, Josephine
McLaughlin, Madge
Niles, Nita
Ogle, Fern
Rhodes, Milbra
Sampley, Effie
Sharp, Eva
Watson, Loretta

Class of 1919

Bone, Kathryn
Brown, Venus
Burns, Clarence
Crowder, Ray
Cunningham, Orval
Hogg, Marjorie
Rhodes, Valeria
Wilkinson, Marjorie

Class of 1920

Armstrong, Madge
Birkhead, Crystal
Crowder, Helen
Girard, Leafel
Low, Marjorie
McGee, Margaret
Nuttal, Ruth
Queen, Boyd
Queen, Eva
Smith, Euphama
Thomas, Beatrice
White, Helen Lucille

Class of 1921

Crowder, Frederick
Harned, Hazel
McGee, Gladys
Mathias, Hobart
Mulholland, Gertrude
Ogle, Helen
Parker, Mabel
Simpson, Laveta
Starr, Luella
Wood, Josephine

Class of 1922

Baird, Sally
Birkhead, Theodore
Bone, Paul
Brock, Maurine

Brock, Wayne
Conlin, Loretta
Conlin, Teresa
Crowder, Dorothy
Crowder, Gladys
Cunningham, Guy
Davis, Beulah
Dewalt, Ray
Dick, Opal
Esry, Donnis
Fitzgerald, Margaret
Goetz, Florence
Hoskins, Robert
Holly, Sopha
Logan, Thomas
Mathias, Lois
McCord, Florence
McCord, Zola
McLane, Reba
McLane, Von
Oathout, Walter
Pesch, Marvin
Sharp, Hugh
Thomas, Edgar
Walton, James B.
Ward, Virgil
Warren, Dale
Weidner, Allane

Class of 1923

Coombes, Clyde
Davis, Stanley
Davis, Thelma
Hendricks, Erma
Lambdin, Ruby
Mathias, Dorothy
McCord, Margaret
McElroy, Bernice
Moore, Edna
Oathout, Mabel
Ray, Ellis
Saylor, Glen
Scott, Opal
Travis, Dillen
Wilkinson, Jasper
Younger, Jessie
Younger, Donald

Class of 1924

Alexander, Hazel
Allen, Fern
Clark, Francis
Coventry, Ethel
Fitzgerald, Dan
Harding, Wallace
Hawley, Verna
Leitch, Lawrence
Majors, Coleen
Murphy, Mary
Patterson, Floyd
Reuss, Horace
Stocks, Beulah
Tueth, Paul
Warren, Zella
Williams, Lura
York, Harold

Class of 1925

Boyer, Freda
Fitzgerald, Alice
Kennedy, Hillis

McGee, Mary
McCord, John
McCord, Ethel
Reuss, Lawrence
Rhodes, Beulah
Scott, Robert
Sharp, Ruth
Schultz, Mary
Walton, Joe
Wilkinson, Arthur
Wood, Fleta
Wood, Luella
Woolen, Dorothy
Zook, Robert

Class of 1926

Cole, Harold
Cordray, Dorothy
Coults, Erin
Ekiss, Marie
Feist, Harold
Fitzgerald, Agnes
Fogarty, Wm.
Grace, Paul
Kennedy, Frances
Lansden, Katherine
Lansden, Lucile
Leitch, Margaret
Mitchell, Diamond
Nihiser, Blanche
Parker, Perry
Pesch, Ethel
Powers, Thelma
Ray, Leona
Roney, Robert
Stables, James
Travis, Amon
Travis, Dortha
Wagamen, Beulah
Ward, James
Ward, Lorraine
Wheeler, James

Class of 1927

Ambrose, Rose
Barnett, Walker
Brown, Helen
Clark, Ruby
Dalton, Walter Amon
Hemer, Juanita
Jones, Lucille
Manship, Edward
McCord, Donald
McReynolds, Florence
Mitchell, Elizabeth
Rhodes, Harold
Rhodes, Hazel
Roney, Hester
Sharp, Mildred

Class of 1928

Black, Mattie
DeBruler, Pauline
Gibbons, George
Hiler, Ruth
Leitch, Ruth
Marlowe, Mary Ellen
Nutterfield, Diamond
Oathout, Orvil
Sanner, Daniel
Scott, Anna Jane
Sharp, Helen

Smull, Ferne
Tarr, Dantzell
Wagemann, Robert
VanMeter, Imelda
Warren, Ella
Wheeler, Mary Dorcas
Wilkinson, Lillian
Woolen, Faye

Class of 1929

Beebe, Wilma
Clark, Mary
Conley, Goldie
Craig, Wayne
Crowder, Robert
Davis, Cubadell
Dedman, Hyllis
Dick, Hollis
Esry, Dolson
Fitzgerald, Everett
Freeland, Helen
Hudson, Thomas
Marshall, Wilmer
McElroy, Cleo
McReynolds, Dora Dean
Nuttall, Ralph
Scott, Julia
Scott, Walter
Stocks, Lois
Tueth, Daniel
Watson, Harold
Younger, Opal

Class of 1930

Allen, Orville
Armstrong, Margaret
Autenrieth, Rolland
Cotner, Mary
Dawson, Henry
Dedman, Doris
Dedman, George
Low, Vemil
Ekiss, Paul
McCord, Frederick
McReynolds, Bernice
Oathout, Gladys
Roney, Charles
Sanner, Geneva
Scott, Joe
Shiels, James
Snow, James
Stewart, Rosemary
Wheeler, Mark

Class of 1931

Clark, Glen
Davidson, Nellie
Dowers, Vida
Ekiss, Virginia
Foster, Frances
Freeland, Gayle
Hankla, Faye
Harding, Jacob
Hogg, Francis
Lancaster, Ralph
Marlow, Freda
Mitchell, Alexander
Pesch, Lula
Roney, Robert
Scott, James
Tinne, Aubrey
Ward, Zenneth

Warren, Dorothy
Weidner, Mary
Wilkinson, James

Class of 1932

Conley, Wilma
Cotner, Jewell
DeBruler, Wanda
Ekiss, Deva
Esry, Talvia
Foster, Dorothy
Grabb, June
Lancaster, Forrest
Leitch, Esther
Scheer, Madge
Schwartz, Koehler
Swiney, Robert

Class of 1933

Hall, Clarence
Coffey, Chase
Cole, Clyde
Cribbet, Wilba
Ekiss, Gevene
Ekiss, Kenneth
Ekiss, Richard
Hampton, Rosemary
Jones, Harold
Lancaster, Wilbur
McCain, Mardelle
Mallinson, Ray
Marshall, Dale
Marshall, Howard
Mathias, Emerson
Moore, Dorothy
Nihiser, Lloyd
Roney, Joe
Roney, Mervin
Scott, Rodney
Sharp, Ralph
Smith, Helen
Smith, Scott
Snow, Harry
Stewart, Virginia
Swiney, Donald
Thompson, Estol
Tipsword, Merwyn
Warren, Ralph
Williams, Milbra
Yarnell, Katherine
Younger, Harold
Younger, Lloyd, Jr.

Class of 1934

Adams, Coleen
Baird, Donald
Hobbitt, Dorothy
Bresman, Mary Margaret
Burrows, William
Bushart, Virginia
Clark, Wayne
Cowger, Vivian
Craig, Madge
Daum, Gwendolyn
Davisson, Mary
Ekiss, Alberta
Grabb, Loren
Lancaster, Mildred
Moody, Edwina
Reedy, Robert
Shaffer, Ralph
Thompson, Raymond

Tohill, Robert
Travis, Oscar
White, Margaret
Williamson, Joe

Class of 1935

Bell, Josephine
Cordray, Patrick
Daum, Frances
Ekiss, Robert
Lenons, Mary
Carlyle, Nadine
Crowder, Tom
Davis, Marvin
Davidson, Marie
Freeland, Jacqueline
Funk, Madona
Mallinson, Howard
Mathias, Oran
McCord, Evalyn
McCord, Robert
Misenheimer, William
Oathout, Howard
Price, Kenneth
Roney, Ralph
Roney, Sarah
Rule, Opal
Rule, William
Scott, Troy Jr.
Shaffer, Ruby
Smith, Virginia
Stewart, John
Swiney, George
Taylor, Gwendolyn
Taylor, Quentin

Class of 1936

Baird, John
Bandy, Faye
Bobbitt, Roberta
Bunning, Mabel
Burrows, Esther
Bushert, Louise
Crane, Joseph
Cribbet, Mary
Dick, Leroy
Ekiss, Joe
Garrett, Catherine
Ekiss, Marjorie
Gordon, Maxine
Green, Paul
Heneberry, Eugene
Hudson, Harold
Lindley, Harlan
Low, Seth
McCain, Genevieve
McLaughlin, Helen
Marlow, March
Marlow, Roy, Jr.
Mathias, Marvin
Moon, Harold
Schwartz, Roger
Scroggins, Izola
Shelton, James
Stocks, Thomas W.
Warren, Kenneth
Weakly, Melvin
White, Mildred

Class of 1937

Carlyle, Elaine
Carlyle, Elmer

Clark, Hazel
 Dawson, Robert
 DeBruler, Martha
 Derry, Aster
 Eskew, Florence
 Evans, June
 Foley, Irene
 Fulk, Paul
 Garrett, Jack
 Heneberry, Dorothy
 Hudson, James
 Lancaster, Dorothy
 Landers, Naomi
 Lumsden, Robert
 Mathias, Minor
 Moon, Paul
 Oathout, Vernon
 Reed, Faye
 Rowe, Eugene
 Shaffer, Raymond
 Smith, Lloyd
 Smull, Earl
 Sporleder, June
 Stewart, Betty
 Taylor, Margery
 Weakly, Thomas

Class of 1938

Bobbitt, Richard
 Brown, Dorothy Jean
 Craig, Russel
 Cribbet, Richard
 Daum, Doris
 Daum, William
 Davisson, Donald
 Dickson, George
 Fulk, Anita
 Goetz, William
 Green, Ella Jane
 Green, Eugene
 McLaughlin, Harold
 Marlow, Mildred
 Miller, Marvin
 Mitchell, Virginia
 Orris, Keith
 Pettypool, Carmel
 Reeter, Eldon
 Schwartz, Eugene
 Scott, Marjorie
 Snow, Nellie Marie
 Sporleder, Helen
 Strain, Robert

Class of 1939

Bone, Robert
 Burrows, Evelyn
 Burrows, Melvin
 Cole, Betty
 Cole, Wallace
 Cordts, Richard
 Coventry, Pauline
 Ekiss, Rosemerel
 Foster, Ilda Mae
 Goetz, John
 Gordon, Forest
 Hudson, Leo
 Jones, June
 Ketcham, Juanita
 McConnell, Marvin
 McIlwain, Bill
 McReynolds, Bessie
 Marshall, Wayne

Mathias, Esther
 Moody, Mary
 Pasley, Zelma
 Pettypool, Charles
 Schenkel, Eugene
 Scott, Jacques
 Shelton, George
 Smith, Dorothy
 Stradley, Luther
 Warren, James
 Weidner, Betty
 Younger, Mary Kathryn
 Tipsword, Dorothy

Class of 1940

Clark, Bonnie
 Davis, Vera
 Davis, Richard
 Dick, Leona
 Egnor, Robert
 Foley, Eloise
 Fulk, Geraldine
 Grabb, Dorothy
 Grace, Marjorie
 Patient, Frank
 Heneberry, Allane
 Ketcham, Melvin
 Moon, Bill
 Reedy, Evelyn
 Schwartz, Grace
 Shelton, Helen
 Sims, Dorothy
 Smith, Paul
 Stocks, Jean
 Wright, Paul
 Wright, Pauline

Class of 1941

Baird, Roger
 Brewer, Kenneth
 Bushert, Maurice
 Clark, Ruth
 Coventry, Wayne
 Egnor, Junior
 Ekiss, Eleanor
 Ekiss, Frances
 Ekiss, Mary Florence
 Ekiss, Sam
 Hilliard, Erma
 Hogan, Richard
 Jones, Wendell
 LaCost, Eileen
 LaCost, Ray
 Livergood, Jack
 Marlow, Marvene
 McCain, Bob
 Minor, Maurice
 Pettypool, Loyal
 Saddoris, Wayne
 Schwartz, Fred
 Shaffer, Robert
 Smith, Marjorie
 Stewart, Dorothy
 Stewart, Gene
 Stewart, Joe
 Weakly, Wayne
 Willmore, Anna Margaret
 Winnings, Joan
 Robertson, Billie

Class of 1942

Watters, Jack

Watson, Lois
 Sanner, Coleen
 Rhodes, Betty
 Reedy, Georgia
 Moon, Raley
 LaCost, Dale
 Heneberry, William
 Heneberry, Maurine
 Davis, Gerald
 Carpenter, George
 Weakly, Darrell
 Turner, Mary
 Turner, Isabelle
 Standerler, Wayne
 Sporleder, Hugh
 Scroggins, Valria
 Scott, John
 Sanner, Austin
 Rule, Maxine
 Moore, Betty
 Marshall, June
 Hudson, Hester
 Gordon, Lester
 Goetz, Maurine
 Garrett, Patricia
 Foley, Helen
 Davis, Robert
 Cruitt, Gwendolyn
 Cribbet, Max
 Cole, Joe
 Bone, Don Lee
 Bartimus, Lorraine

Class of 1943

Baird, Paul
 Briscoe, Lora
 Bushert, Craig
 Cordts, Cleo
 Coventry, Carl
 Cruitt, E. H.
 Davidson, Nelson
 Ekiss, Lucille
 Foster, Jack
 Goetz, Dorothy
 Kennedy, Billie Jack
 LaCost, Bill
 Lump, Eloise
 McCain, Betty
 Marlow, Inez Gevene
 Martin, Donald
 Reeter, Errol
 Robertson, Frances
 Saddoris, Don
 Snyder, Elaine
 Travis, Pauline
 Tueth, Charles
 Turner, Helen
 Winson, Jean

Class of 1944

Ward, Lavonne
 Martin, Marjorie
 Younger, Carolyn
 Adcock, Tom
 Bartimus, Nelda
 Bland, Mary Barbara
 Bone, Joe
 Briscoe, Juanita
 Brown, Hazel
 Burrows, Glen M.
 Clark, Betty
 Cochran, Nellie

Cole, Mary Lou	Wilkinson, Shirley	Trulock, Clarence
Cook, Betty	Younger, Verl	Walton, James
Cook, Mary		Wright, Wanda
Cox, Mildred	Class of 1947	Class of 1950
Cribbet, Rex	Bone, Jim	Bland, Martha
Garman, Martha	Boyer, Baird	Brewer, Robert
Garrett, Bob	Burrows, Margaret	Brown, Donald
Heneberry, Jack	Fitzgibbons, Robert	Burrows, Nellie Marie
Hilliard, Alice	Garman, Mary	Carlyle, Norma
Johnson, Bettie	Goetz, Mary Jane	Clark, Joy
Keown, Dale	Hudson, Joyce	Cruse, Betty
Keown, Gale	Johnson, Mabel	Hampton, Sandra Lee
Lesley, Bob	Keown, Dora	Johnson, Kay
Mathias, Don	Little, Kensil	Keown, Douglas
Morris, Mary Margaret	McBridge, Clayton	Malone, Donald
Pearson, Charles	McGee, Ray	Manship, Carlin Joe
Pritts, Jack	McReynolds, Doris	Merold, Yvonne
Queen, Janice	Marshall, Jim	Perisho, James R.
Reeter, Maurice	Mitchell, Mary Jane	Powell, Jerres Jane
Robv, Frank, Jr.	Morris, Emma Lou	Reedy, Peggy
Sanner, Jay, Jr.	Nichols, Barbara	Rhodes, Lila Lu
Sanner, Kelly	Parris, Jean	Wampler, William
Sharp, Dick	Pearson, Scott	Ward, Donna
Snyder, Bob	Primmer, Bob	Wilkinson, Porter, Jr.
Snyder, Eleanor	Shadow, Rowena	Younger, Robert
Steele, Herman	Sims, Betty	
Willmore, Doris	Smith, Wayne	
	Tipsword, Bill	Class of 1951
Class of 1945	Turner, Elsie	Austin, Glenn
Bland, Mary	Warren, Don Gene	Bartimus, Marjorie
Brewer, Bill		Cribbet, Myron
Brown, Maxine	Class of 1948	Dick, Darlene
Cordts, Buelah	Bone, Jack	Dunwiddie, Darlene
Coventry, Gladys	Brown, Lawrence	Keown, Doris
Cruit, Smith	Brown, Shirley	Keown, Jim
Freeland, Lee	Clark, James	LaCost, John
Garman, Jim	Cook, Robert	Lillico, Evelyn
Goetz, George	Cruse, Irma Lee	Little, Glen
Goetz, Rose Marie	Foster, Joe	McReynolds, Phyllis
Keown, Jack	Goddard, Betty	Majors, Herbert A.
LaCost, Sarah	Goddard, Clem, Jr.	Majors, Howard
Lumpp, Roger	Goetz, James	Marshall, Maxine
Pierson, Betty Rose	Heneberry, Joe	Morris, Bill
Orris, John	Lesley, Ted	Perisho, Darrell
Sanner, Bill	Low, Elaine	Phillips, Phil
Shaffer, Russell	Moon, Ella Mae	Stables, Tom
Smith, Lila	Reeter, Lynette	Tinnean, Leroy
Smith, Marjorie	Stocks, Joan	Tipsword, James
Twenty, Barbara	Sutton, Bill	Wagemann, Maxine
Warren, Richard	Shelton, Wayne	Wheeler, Mary Ruth
Wilkinson, Hillis	Scribner, Bill	
	Walton, Shirley	Class of 1952
	Younger, Joan	Bland, Bill
Class of 1946		Boyer, Robert
Bone, Lora Mae	Class of 1949	Carlyle, Helen
Denton, Eugene	Austin, Robert	Carlyle, Juanita
Farris, Bill	Baird, Mary Grace	Carlyle, Ollie
Flore, Jean	Clark, Ardith	Flore, Joan
Garman, Virginia	Clark, Charles Francis	Freeland, Isabel
Keown, Harold	Cordts, Robert	Goetz, Beverly
Little, Norma	Heneberry, David	Gregory, Joann
Livergood, Robert	Heneberry, Donald	Heckler, Earl
Marshall, Valeria	LaCost, Loretta	Heustis, Lyle
Mitchell, Virginia	Keown, Robert	Hudson, Louise
Queen, Barbara	Marlow, Avis	Jackson, Jim
Rhodes, John A.	McGee, Kenneth, Jr.	Malone, Joyce
Travis, Dora Lee	Pritts, Darrell (G.E.D.)	Marlow, Janet
Tueth, Irene	Scott, Glyndola	Moore, Marian
Coleman, Florence Louise	Scott, Myrta	Oathout, Phyllis
Fitzgibbons, Francis, Jr.	Sharp, Jim	Puycar, Bill
Shelton, Charles	Stables, Valette	Fitzgibbons, David
Walton, Joseph	Tipsword, Norma	Warren, Mervin

Taylor, Dean
Queen, Marna
Sill, Harold
Tinnea, Gene
Utsler, Nora
Walton, Becky
Ward, Mary Martha
Wheeler, Jack
Wheeler, Jim
Wheeler, Patricia
Wimmer, David

Class of 1953

Coventry, Kenneth
Dalton, Martha
Dick, Hollis Allen
McDevitt, Jerry
Miller, Marsha
Morris, Jeanette
Morris, Genell
Pasley, Joe (G.E.D.)
Queen, Bob
Saddoris, Jim
Schwartz, Jolene
Sharp, Joanne
Tipsword, John
Wheeler, Phyllis

Class of 1954

Austin, Helen
Bartimus, Ralph
Bland, Dale
Bone, Margaret
Boyer, Dick
Cruse, Alberta
Fabley, Perry
Gaither, John
Gerkin, Floyd
Goetz, Lyle
Gregory, Tom
Hudson, Jennie
Johnson, Bob
LaCost, Patricia
McGee, Robert
McReynolds, Lillian
Merold, Carrel
Miller, Francine
Oathout, Kenneth
Shipman, Joyce
Smith, Norma Jean
Tinnea, Beverly
Wampler, Doris Elaine
Sill, Barbara

Class of 1955

Bennett, Harry L.
Bland, Irma Faye
Boros, Bill
Coventry, Jack
Crane, Lewis, Jr.
Cutler, Jack
Graham, Charles (by transfer)
Heckler, Sharon
Herendeen, Lloyd
McReynolds, Marjorie
McReynolds, Wayne
Puyear, Janet
Queen, Ilene
Queen, Paul
Smith, John
Tohill, Gene
Tohill, Joan

Ward, Jerry
Wheeler, Shirley
Younger, Cherie

Class of 1956

Barnes, Janet
Bartimus, James
Betzer, Chester
Brown, Helen Jane
Brown, Jack
Brown, Nadine
Gaither, James H.
Gray, Burl
Hampton, Harold
Jackson, David
McKinney, Sandra
Mitchell, Arnold Dean
Pettypool, Nancy
Puyear, Dean
Rutherford, Ann
Scott, Mary Jo
Sharp, Dorothea
Stocks, Kay
Sutton, Doris
Thomas, Nancy

Class of 1957

Barnes, Phyllis
Barnes, Sandra
Bennet, Gerald
Book, Roy
Brown, Howard
Crane, Ronald
Elder, Jeanne
Garrett, Ronnie
Heckler, Shirley
Kirkwood, Sarah
Lumsden, Judith
Miller, Violet
Pritts, Carolyn
Pritts, Faye
Sheehan, Tom
Shonk, Diane
Sims, Jackie
Stroyeck, Bruce
Taylor, Janet
Tucker, Eddie
Twenty, Mary K.
Walen, Jon
Ward, Wayne

Class of 1958

Ball, John
Barnes, Bob
Bennett, Carol
Boros, Gene
Brown, Joyce
Brown, Judith
Clark, Judy
Crane, Jack
Dick, Ellen
Hudson, Jean
Hungate, Stewart
Marshall, Fred
Oathout, Audrey
Poole, Joe
Schwartz, Janet
Shonk, Linda
Sims, Larry
Wheeler, Gale, Jr.
Windell, David
Yakey, Janet

Class of 1959

Barnes, Dwayne
Boros, Rhoda
Clark, Helen (G.E.D.)
Craycroft, Sharon
Dick, Linda
Fitzgerald, Jim
Freeman, Don
Gaither, Marilyn
Gaither, Mary Ann
Gibbons, Paula
Greenwalt, Walter
Heckler, Mary
Jarand, Roger L.
Lumsden, Mary
Manship, Jennie
Marshall, Nina
Matheson, Dale
McKinney, Dale
McReynolds, Keith
Mescher, Larry
Mescher, Linda
Miller, Dee
Pasley, Jon H.
Patrick, George
Phillippo, Larry
Reed, Keith
Schwartz, Joe
Schwartz, Kay
Sharp, Carol
Shonk, Sandra
Smith, Janice
Strauch, James
Stroyeck, Carol
Tucker, David
Wheeler, Sue
Wheeler, Tom
Younger, Rita

Class of 1960

Bosomworth, Lyndol
Breitman, Jeff
Davis, Nancy
Dukeman, Jim
Gregory, Patsy
Johnson, Philip
Marshall, Joe
Moody, John
Poole, Sue
Pritts, Ronald
Rowe, Judy
Rutherford, Richard
Saddoris, Dick
Schwartz, Mary
Settle, Bill
Sharp, Richard
Stinson, Linda
Dick, Judy
Smith, David
Stocks, Thomas E.
Sutton, Dean
Utsler, Dean
Watkins, David
Wheeler, Barbara
Yarnell, Roger
Ziems, Gale

Class of 1961

Armer, LaVelle
Barnes, Sandra
Bennett, Larry
Bennett, Patty

Carroll, Linda
Davis, Marilyn
Fultz, Max
Kirkwood, Gene
McReynolds, Dean
Patient, Linda
Patrick, Sue
Schwartz, Lou Ann
Shelton, Barbara
Shelton, Beverly
Shelton, Dave
Sims, Bill
Smith, Troy
Stout, Linda
Tucker, Alice
Taylor, Bill
Thomas, Linda
Whitrock, Jon
Yarnell, Gary
Zeims, Leilani

Class of 1962

Boros, Renee
Cochran, Galene
Crane, Steve
Dowdell, Clifford
Ekiss, Paul (Pete)
Emel, Richard
Emel, Roger
Emel, Ronald
Freeman, Kay
Fox, Marijo
Garrett, Richard
Gift, Cathy
Jackson, Joyce
Kelly, Velma
Kidwell, Richard
McLaughlin, John
Martin, Don
Moody, Gary
Pasley, Sharon
Pearce, Ruth
Ray, Nancy
Reynolds, Roger (G.E.D.)
Robinson, Linda
Schwartz, Shirley
Stinson, David
Thompson, Rozann
Utsler, Linda
Ward, Pauline
Yarnell, Mick

Class of 1963

Book, Donald G.
Brewer, Daniel K.
Butt, Nancy
Carroll, Mike
Cole, Gene
Cordray, Verl
Crowder, Larry
Davis, Virgil, Jr.
Ferguson, Shirley
Fitzgerald, Imogene
Gordon, Bill
Guthrie, Larry Joe
Hampton, Shirley Lee
Lillico, Linda
McLaughlin, Jim
McReynolds, Tom
Marshall, Joyce
Orris, Mary Ann
Ozee, Philip Roger

Parsons, Porter
Payne, Phyllis
Reynolds, Jerry
Rutherford, Jeanie
Sharp, Elaine
Sharp, Marilyn
Shelton, Mike
Smith, Judy
Springer, Randy
Stinson, Sharon
Stocks, George, Jr.
Sweeney, Kenneth
Walker, Barbara
Walton, Daniel
Ward, Carol
Ward, John
Warner, Brenda
West, Robert
Wheeler, Cheryl
Wilson, Jim
Younger, Emmajean

Class of 1964

Armer, Tom
Arthur, Carol
Barnes, Linda
Bland, Charles Alan
Bosomworth, Kevin
Breitman, Jerald
Butt, Dixie
Edgecomb, Steven
Garrett, Gerald
Goetz, Barbara Jean
Jackson, Ruth Ann
Kidwell, Gaylene Farris
Kluge, Karen
McCain, Joseph
Miller, Billy Jo (G.E.D.)
Miller, Connie
Moody, Kay
Muzzy, Shirley
Pasley, Marcia
Payne, Oda
Pritts, Joyce
Sanner, Sandra
Reedy, Susan
Scott, Myron Lee (Sam)
Sees, Milton
Smith, Beverly
Snyder, Paul
Walker, David
Whitely, Neal

Class of 1965

Aschermann, Larry
Book, Sam
Bruce, Linda
Carlyle, Clyde
Collins, Charles
Crowder, Richard
Dick, Linda
Dowdell, Everett
Gaither, David
Goetz, Billie Sue
Green, Robert
Gregory, John (G.E.D.)
Holland, William
Kirkwood, Rose
Kluge, Donna
Lamb, Richard
Mathias, Sandra
McCorvie, Archie E. III

McLaughlin, Richard
Orris, Mike
Patient, Aaron
Reedy, Linda
Ray, Carol
Robinson, Danny
Sanner, Constance
Settle, Loran, Jr.
Shelton, Dianne
Smith, Linda
Smith, Susan
Stocks, Ann
Thomas, James W.
Thompson, Deloris
Tipsword, David R.
Vanatta, Deborah
Yarnell, James F.
Yarnell, James L.

Class of 1966

Armer, John
Brewer, Dean
Butt, Sandra
Cochran, James (by transfer)
Cole, Pam
Davis, Jerry
Dowdell, Darrell
Garrett, Mike
Gibbons, Linda
Jackson, Carolyn Sue
Jarand, Alan
Kirkwood, Anna
Kirkwood, Ron L.
Lamb, Ann
Lesley, Helen
Marshall, Pat
McCain, Danny
McIlwain, Cynthia Ann
Muzzy, Terry
Parsons, Martin
Pritts, Joan (G.E.D.)
Reedy, Pat
Settle, Alverna
Schwartz, Zona
Scott, Jack, Jr.
Speer, Arthur
Tueth, Judi
Utsler, Melvin (G.E.D.)
Webb, Wanda
Welch, Darrell
Wimmer, Diane
Yarnell, Duane
Ziems, Mike

Class of 1967

Ascherman, Douglas
Ball, Donald
Barnes, Larry
Beachy, Floyd A.
Bland, Judy
Book, Velma
Brewer, Michael
Brown, Stephen
Carlyle, Mary E.
Carroll, James
Clark, Jerry L.
Clark, Sharon K.
Cordray, Verral E.
Crane, Karen
Davis, Wm. Timothy
Dick, Larry

Dowdell, Carolyn
 Fendley, Dennis
 Ferguson, Dennis
 Gordon, Thomas
 Herendeen, Douglas
 Hoskins, Thomas
 Kirkwood, Carolyn Diane
 Martin, Richard
 Mescher, Dwaine
 Payne, Harold, Jr.
 Pearce, Elmo R.
 Roby, Emily
 Rowe, Wm.
 Russell, Joseph
 Shonk, Christine
 Smith, Marilyn
 Snyder, Sarah Jane
 Vanatta, Rex

Class of 1968

Armer, Mary
 Beachy, Karen
 Bickers, Michael
 Burrows, Douglas
 Clark, Jeffrey
 Cribbet, Gregory
 Cruik, Smith, Jr.
 Davis, Homer
 Dick, Stanley
 Freeland, Zane
 Freeman, Barry
 Furr, Kathy
 Gibbons, Gary
 Goetz, Kathy
 Gordon, James
 Hickenbottom, Ronald
 Johnson, Michael
 McCorvie, Nancy
 Miller, Trinkka
 Mitchell, Bruce
 Nance, Zena
 Payne, Jo Ellen
 Reeter, Julie
 Sanner, Cynthia
 Schwartz, John
 Scribner, Phyllis Gordon (G.E.D.)
 Smith, Pam
 Thompson, Linda
 Thompson, Stanley
 Underwood, Kathleen
 White, Robert Terry
 Ziems, Kathy

Class of 1969

Brewer, Gene
 Book, Eddie
 Cole, Paula
 Collins, Michael
 Crowder, Roger
 Farris, Rebecca
 Fitzgerald, Ellen
 Fleshner, George
 Florey, Robert
 Gibbons, Don, Jr.
 Gift, Cynthia (by transfer)
 Gist, Steven
 Holthaus, Rayne
 Hooper, Myla
 Lesley, Patti
 Loy, Alan
 Mathias, Shiela
 McCoy, Candace

McIlwain, Margaret
 Muzzy, Sharon
 Miller, Danny
 Noblitt, Lincoln
 Payne, Linda
 Risley, Nancy
 Russell, Thomas
 Schwartz, Deborah
 Smith, Forrest M.
 Snyder, David
 Spence, Paula
 Thomas, James
 Thompson, Teresa
 Tipsword, Stanley
 Wilson, Dee
 Wise, John

Class of 1970

Evans, Barbara
 Florey, Rodney
 Ashley, Billy
 Bland, Peggy
 Brewer, Sam
 Brown, Cindy
 Clark, Corrine
 Cribbet, Brad
 Davis, Vickie
 Dukeman, Steve
 Moon, Johnny
 Flannell, Danny
 Fleshner, James
 Florey, Sharon
 Freeland, Renee
 Funk, Jane
 Hamilton, Melody
 Hoskins, Marie
 Kelly, Alton
 Kirkwood, Dorothy
 LaCost, Sandra
 Martin, Orville (Punch)
 Doyle, Eloise
 Noblitt, Susan
 Osman, Joan
 Ray, Patricia
 Russell, Anne
 Sanner, Kay
 Schwartz, Paggy
 Seelow, Lois
 Smith, Leonard
 Smith, Teresa
 Utsler, Jerry
 Weakly, John

Class of 1971

Blackford, Tony
 Book, Harry
 Carder, Marcheta
 Clark, Kent
 Creek, Vicki Butt
 Cribbet, Donna Sue
 Cruik, Deon
 Davis, Debra
 Farris, Cheryl
 Ferguson, Janet
 Fitzgerald, Thomas
 Fleshner, Paul
 Fox, Hans
 Hill, David
 La Cost, Hazel Ann
 Lee, John
 Lesley, Brenda
 McCain, John

McIlwain, Bill
 Marshall, Tom
 Mathias, Monte
 Mathias, Nelda
 Parsons, Mike
 Phillipppo, Karen
 Pyles, Dennis
 Sapp, Becky
 Schwartz, Joe
 Sereda, Jessica
 Smith, Bill
 Smith, Steven
 Snyder, Linda
 White, Richard
 Whitely, Donna

Class of 1972

Brewer, Charles
 Bruce, Bob
 Bryant, Phil
 Bubb, Cyndi Hooper
 Calhoun, Rick L.
 Carlyle, James E.
 Dowdell, Herschel
 Dukeman, Randy
 Embry, Dale
 Florey, Randy
 Hamilton, Harvey
 Hickenbottom, Sue
 Hicks, Sharon
 Johnson, Bonnie
 McCorvie, Mary
 McLain, Jill
 Muzzy, Jerry
 Phillipppo, Brenda
 Reeter, Brett
 Risley, Mary
 Sanders, Diana
 Smith, Kathy Brewer
 Snyder, Donald
 Vanatta, Pam
 Vollmer, Steve
 Wakeland, Shawna
 Bryant, Peggy Weakly
 Webner, Allen
 Wheeler, Randy

Class of 1973

Abbott, Ted
 Armer, Nancy
 Ashley, Bob
 Book, Bob
 Bryant, Mary
 Butt, Mary
 Davis, Sheila
 Gibbons, Cindy
 Gist, Davena
 Gordon, Karla
 Iler, Sally
 Johnson, Ricci
 Johnson, Sue
 Karr, LuAnn
 Kelly, Diane
 Keown, Debbie
 Kidwell, Debbie
 Kohler, Linda
 Lancaster, Wilbur
 Marshall, Nancy
 Reeter, Randy
 Risley, Pat
 Sharp, Nancy
 Siere, Harry

Siere, Ray
Smith, Vanessa
Snyder, Kenneth
Sowers, Steve
Sullivan, Mike
Tippsword, Steve
Tucker, Cheryl
Vanatta, Brenda
West, Donna
Wilson, Dave

Sharp, Barbara
Smith, Susan L.
Snyder, Barbara
Stables, Stanley
Suddarth, Daniel
Sullivan, Kathryn
Thomas, Ronald
Thompson, Martha Sumpter
Thompson, Vicki
Throneburg, Linda
Warren, David

Class of 1974

Apke, Maria
Bagley, Kenneth
Bates, Robin
Bone, Dan
Boyer, Ben
Brewer, Colleen
Brewer, Deborah
Calhoun, Monte
Cohan, Gerald, Jr.
Cruit, Gay
Eccles, Merel
Farris, Diane
Fitzgerald, Jane
Foster, Cheryl
Grove, Barbara
Holland, Mike
Jenkins, Ron
McCorvie, Bill
McManaway, Pam
Marshall, Brett
Nailer, Harold
Orris, Kathy
Pasrons, Steve
Pasley, Tim
Peterson, Marla
Robbins, Joe
Sanner, Stan
Siere, John
Sowers, Nancy
Spencer, Denise
Standerler, Brent
Sullivan, Debra
Throneburg, Brenda
Underwood, Rick
Wakeland, Cathy
Weakly, Janet
Wheeler, Tim

Class of 1975

Allsop, Gregory
Bennett, Michael
Black, Alma Book
Bone, James
Book, Marvin
Brewer, Joyce
Bryant, Daniel
Butler, Rebecca
Carlyle, Betty Jo
Casteel, Linda Wehner
Dowdell, Donald
Eckel, Christopher
Gist, Robbie
Goetz, Michael
Holthaus, Jeffrey
Iler, Gary
Kirkwood, Linda
Miller, E. Charles
Nichols, Betty Beachy
Puyear, Larry
Rauch, Angela

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